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D.E.C. LETTER TO ARMY CORPS PROTESTS ROMER SHOAL DREDGING

Dear Mr. McGrade: The following comments pertain to your Permit No. 11038, issued to the New Jersey Turnpike Authority, dated 6/13/79 through 6/82.

It is my understanding that the permit authorizes the Turnpike Authority to dredge 2.0 million cubic yards of fill to a depth of minus 45 feet from two general areas in New Jersey waters: one on the east side of Ambrose Channel and the second on the west side of Ambrose Channel.

Unfortunately, my office did not see Public Notice 9567, which announced the proposal when it was originally circulated, and only recently became aware of the Permit. As partial justification for our having not noticed the original public notice is the fact that we have not been concerned about New Jersey's activity in the New York Bight, inasmuch as that state, unlike New York, has not authorized dredging of its underwater lands for fill materials for many years. Thus, its sudden change of policy is quite surprising.

Our primary concern relates to an exceptional natural formation on the west side of Ambrose Channel at the New York-New Jersey boundary known as Romer Shoal. For a number of physical reasons, Rober Shoal consistently attracts and concentrates an excellent variety of marine fish. Consequently, it is one of the most popular focal points for marine fishermen from the New York metropolitan area, since it is not only productive, but also reasonably accessible by boat. Thus, it has been a long standing policy of the Department to protect it from dredging.

I have information from the editor of "The Long Island Fisherman," the president of the New York Sportfishing Council, and the president of the Sheepshead Bay Boatmen Alliance, as well as from many other individuals, not to mention my own staff, that Romer Shoal provides the most consistent fishing success of any area that is in close proximity to metropolitan boat captains. Charter boats, party boats, and private boats fish Romer Shoal intensively from June through September (less intensively, March-June and September-November) almost everyday of the week. There are days in mid-summer when there are as many as 250-300 fishing vessels over and around the Shoal at one time. The fishermen come from many areas including the Upper Hudson, Sheepshead Bay, Jamaica Bay, Freeport, Sandy Hook, New Jersey, Atlantic Beach and Staten Island.

The most popular fish caught from Romer Shoal are bluefish, striped bass, weakfish, blackfish, fluke (summer flounder), and scup. In all, there are more than 1,000 fishing boats including private vessels, charter boats and party boats that rely on the fish concentrating on Romer Shoal for a major part of their fishing. This activity generates a significant economic advantage to the area, not to mention outstanding recreational pleasure.

I am surprised that neither of the Federal watchdog agencies (the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and the National Marine Fisheries Serivce(, nor the New Jersey fishermen notified your office of the significance of this area. I sincerely regret that we must do so at this late date.

The dredging of Romer Shoal will generate other important environmental impacts which need be mentioned. Please note the attached statement from Dr. Jerry Schubel, Director of the Marine Sciences Research Center at Stony Brook University, relative to potential increased erosion hazards to Staten Island. An additional statement by Dr. B. H. Brinkhuis, relative to bottom dwelling organisms and to an active research program, is also attached.

Unfortunately, about eight years ago, some fill was dredged from the eastern part of the Shoal (to provide fill for the Rockaways) that destroyed a very productive fishery that has never recovered.

Based on the information given above, I wish to voice strong objection on behalf of the marine fishermen of New York State that the dredging, authorized under Permit No. 11038, be suspended, since such dredging would undoubtedly destroy the outstanding value of Romer Shoal as a fish concentration area. It is imperative that a more critical review of the impact this project will have on the welfare of the people of New York State be made. While the review is being made by your office, I would appreciate the opportunity to review a copy of the Environmental Impact Statement that was prepared for this project.

In the meantime, I expect that you will receive reinforcement of my position from other offices within NYSDEC, as well as from other agencies and fishermen, now that the significance of this project has been publicized. Sincerely, **A.S. Taormina, N.Y.D.E.C., Director of Marine Resources**

NEW YORK SPORTFISHING COUNCIL TESTIFIES AT CONGRESSIONAL HEARING ON DUMPING IN LONG ISLAND SOUND

On Saturday, October 13, 1979, The New York Sportfishing Council was invited by Congressman Jerome

A. Ambro to give their views and swom testimony at a Congressional Hearing regarding the dumping of toxic material in Long Island Sound. The Council and the Town of Huntington have actively objected to this dumping operation by the Corps of Engineers since the beginning, and were impressed by Congressman Ambro's obvious objection to this dumping.

The mere fact that a Congressional Hearing transpired on this subject is extremely encouraging, as the opposition to this procedure stems mainly from the Town of Huntington, The New York Sportfishing Council, The Long Island Fisherman, the Marine Environmental Council, and a few concerned citizens. This relatively small coalition made a sufficient impression to warrant a Congresstional investigation.

The New York Sportfishing Council, first invited to testify, presented the following testimony:

Gentlemen: We of The New York Sportfishing Council, as previously stated, are against the dumping of toxic material in Long Island Sound and will continue to oppose this operation.

Sportfishing is a leisure activity, but it accounts for a tremendous amount of revenue dispersed on Long Island and this revenue is vital to the economic stability of this island. Consequently, we sportfishermen have a two-fold interest in the capping operation, we want the environment we rely upon and the economy of this island protected.

This experiment, being conducted uder the supervision of the Corps of Engineers, can seriously affect both of these interests. We classify this operation as an experiment, since the Corps has not made any indication that a project such as this has ever been attempted in any other maine coastal area. The monitoring data of the past month's dumping are far from being conclusive. This coming winer, with all its adverse weather conditions, can destroy this entire capping operation. Every inlet on Long Island is testimony to this. The topography of these inlets change from year-to-year and necessitate constant dredging by the Corps.

Therefore, it is conceivable that this coming winer will disperse the contamination contained in the heavily toxic material the length and breadth of Long Island Sound. The result is self-evident. Any fin or shellfish taken in these waters will be inedible because of the contamination. Provided, of course, this contamination is detected before it has caused serious damage.

Another fact we feel is pertinent to this situation. Industrial wastes and harbor dredge material have been deposited in the New York Bight area. The so-called Acid Stain off New Jersey has become a body of water devoid of finfish life and the bottom dumps have produced areas without signs of any marine or aquatic life.

There is another confusing circumstance we wish to bring to the attention of this committee. Evidently there are three governmental agencies that have different opinions on the dispersement of pollutants into coastal waterways. The Corps of Engineers are under the opinion that their capping operation of toxic materials is not harmful to the environment, whereas the U.S. Coast Guard, as of January 1980, stipulates that all commercial and pleasure craft cannot discharge human waste into the coastal waterways. This seems also hypocritical. One feels heavy toxic materials can be safely dumped and the other that the cominbed discharge of approximately 30,000 boatmen and the commercial interests is more devastating than the millions of tons of toxicity the Corps is dumping. Both these procedures were sanctioned under the auspices of the Environmental Protection Agency. Evidently there seem to be two sets of rules that the E.P.A. are guided by.

Undoubtedly the Corps chose the dump sites because they were expedient and economical. In our opinion this should not be the criteria, there are alternatives. Landfills, ocean dumping, or recycling into fertilizers are some. They may prove more expensive, but they will not have the detrimental effect to the ecology, or to the economy of Long Island that the present method presents.

In conclusion, under no circumstance can we afford the luxury of experimentation with the environemtn that Long Island relys upon. The long-range capping plans of the Corps present too many possible risks and alternatives must be found that will be satisfactory to all concerned. **George Gerhold, Pres.**

LENT ANNOUNCES JONES INLET STUDY TO BEGIN

"I am very pleased to be able to report that the feasibility study on widening and deepening the Jones Inlet Channel on Long Island will get underway immediately," Congressman Norman F. Lent announced today.

Lent contacted the Corps of Army Engineers after White House approval of the $10 billion Energy and Water Development Appropriation Bill, containing the $40 thousand funding for the first year of the four-and-a-half-year study planned by the Engineers, insured that funds will be available to the Engineers October 1, 1979.

"I have been assured by the New York District Office of the Engineers that it will begin work immediately on the study," Lent said. "The District Office informs me that the first year of the study will be devoted to gathering necessary data

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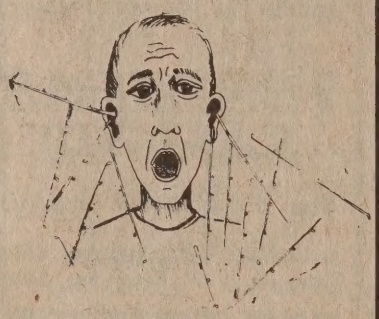

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on the economic, engineering and environmental factors involved in the project; to studying the possible designs for the surveys needed; and to establishing coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and with Long island village, town and country officials who will be involved." Lent said.

The Long Island Congressman said the Engineers plan to hold the first public hearing on the project about one year from now, after the preliminary data-gathering process has been completed.

"I am encouraged that the Engineers are moving so speedily to get the study underway," Lent declared. "I can assure Long Islanders seeking this improvement in safety of commercial and pleasure boating on the South Shore that I will continue to keep a very close watch on the progress of the study to insure that the Engineers live up to their promises."

SENATE APPROVES FUNDS FOR CHAFEE'S STRIPED BASS STUDY

Washington—The Senate today approved the full appropriation request for the first year of an unprecedented study into the decline of the striped bass, as proposed by Sen. John H. Chafee (R-R.I.).

Approval means that $1 million in grants and matching money will be available for the first year in a massive three-year investigation, coordinated by the National Marine Fisheries Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Chafee's amendment, which is part of the Anadromous Fish Conservation Act of 1979, will provide $1 million for the first year of the study, $1.75 million for the second year, and $2 million for the third.

Although the bill authorized today's appropriation won't actually be ready for Senate consideration until probably next week, the positive vote today virtually guarantees its approval.

"I'm really enthused about the broad range of support this bill has attracted," said Chafee, who first proposed his amendment early this spring. "The vote today bodes well for future approval of the remaining years of the study—and that's good news for the striper."

For the last 10 to 20 years, environmentalists and both sport and commercial fishermen have become increasingly alarmed over the mysteriously declining striper population along the Atlantic coast. This coordinated federal-state study—the first ever federally funded—will both determine the striper population, and pinpoint the reasons for its growing disappearance.

Funds will be administered by the two federal agencies, with the guidance of local citizens' advisory groups along the coast. The matching funds will be available on the basis of a one-third contribution by the individual states, a contribution they have already indicated a willingness to make.

The striped bass is prominent among the anadromous fish—those that live in salt water but breed in fresh water—as a proud and courageous fighter, one chronicled even in the early writings of pilgrim John Smith. "However," Chafee said today, "he seems to be losing the great fight, and we're not even sure why. Now we can help, before we lose this mighty creature."

In this book "Striper", author John N. Cole says, "...this creature, whose poetry has nourished the souls of men ever since the Indians, this natural preserve of a natural god, is being destroyed."

Cole's theory, one shared by many others, is that the fish is being killed by toxic chemicals now common to its major breeding grounds in the Chesapeake Bay and Hudson River.

This spring Chafee and the rest of the Environment and Public Works Committee began reauthorization hearings on the anadromous fish act. Coincidentally, Chafee had also been reading Cole's book, whose prognosis on the striper he described as "tragically disheartening."

Following those hearings, Chafee wrote and introduced his amendment. A subsequent hearing in Rhode Island on the amendment including the personal testimony of Cole.

"Thanks to the vigilence of guardians such as John Cole and others—and that extends to members of private fishing groups up and down the coast—this magnificent fish stands a greater chance of survival now," Chafee said. "This is an opportunity we can't afford to squander. Ours must be the generation that rescued the striper, not the one that buried it."

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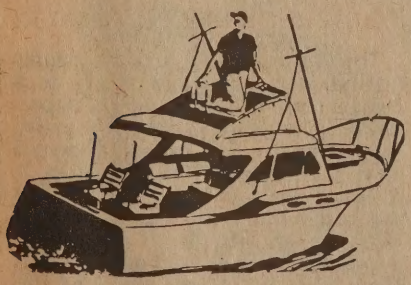
FRIENDS OF L.I. RECYCLE DRIVE

The monthly recycle drive of the Friends of Long Island will be held Saturday, November 17th from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Pathmark parking field on Merrick Road in Seaford. Look for the ecology flag. Materials collected are: newspapers and magazines, (tied or untied), aluminum and car batteries.

CLUB NEWS

HUNTINGTON ANGLERS BLUE & BASS DERBY

Enclosed is a list of the results of the Striped Bass & Bluefish Derby held the weekend of the 19th to the 21st of October between the Huntington Angler's Club-Mill River Rod & Gun Clb of Bayville and the Harbor Fishing Club of Huntington. Huntington Club member Jim Schneider, bass of 14 lbs. for 1st prize. Second prize went to Huntington Club member Dick Deasy with a bass of 8 lbs. No bluefish weighed by any club and no fish weighed by the other clubs. A hearty breakfast was held at the Harbor Boating Club at weigh-in time. Host club was the Huntington Angler's Club.



Contests & Tournaments

CODFISH CHILLER TOURNEY CANCELLED

The annual East Bay Anglers' Codfish Chiller tournament has been **cancelled** for this season.

We would appreciate having this notice announced as soon as possible. Thank you. **Ken House**

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NATIONAL SCENE

NEWS & NOTES ON THE WORLD OF FISHING
with Al Ristori

Tuna Picture Doesn't Look Good

A recent phone conversation with Bruce Freeman, who's in charge of the tuna program at the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Northeast office in Gloucester, didn't provide much encouragement about the future of that fishery. Last fall, Freeman came up with what seemed to be the solution to our long-term problem with the bluefin tuna. He proposed eliminating the tuna seining season on schoolies—a fishery that has effectively been eliminating most of the tuna spawned during the past few years. Since the pressure on the small tuna has basically negated the effort to save the present spawning class in any case, Freeman figured he would give the seiners an extra quota of giants to make up for the loss of the school fish.

That proposal was presented at several fact-finding meetings last winter and was enthusiastically received. It seemed to be a logical means of building up a depleted population, while allowing the seiners to make a living at the same time. It looked like clear sailing at the time—but we hadn't figured on the pull the seiners have at the commercially-oriented National Marine Fisheries Service. At the last minute, the rug was pulled out from under Freeman's program and it was decided that the school tuna seining would be only gradually eliminated. As it turned out, the delays involved in changing horses in mid-stream, plus the usual bureaucratic foul-ups at NMFS, resulted in the tuna arriving without regulations in place. By the time they were promulgated, the seiners had almost doubled their six hundred ton allocation!

Despite the bonus the seiners received this spring, they still held on to their increased quota of giants: a very nice year for them. I wish I could say the same for the sport fishermen, but exactly the opposite was true. School tuna were as scarce as they have been in recent years, and giant tuna fishing was no bargain. The only excitement was provided by some appearances by the last healthy year class—the 1973 fish that now average about 175-250 lbs. Those that weren't killed illegally by the seiner, 'Pacific Queen,' hit late in the summer off Block Island. Indeed, the faster growing fish in that class are now over 300 lbs., and quite a few were caught this year—enough to lower the average weight of all giants landed, despite the capture of many 1,000-1,100 lb. fish in Massachusetts Bay.

According to Bruce Freeman, between sixty and eighty per cent of the school tuna catch since 1974 has been of the '73 year class. Things don't seem to be getting any better, as few young-of-the-year and one-year-olds were spotted this summer. The one positive factor in this year's debacle was the cooperation of the Canadians. Every year, we've had at least one Canadian seiner off the mid-Atlantic Coast—catching school tuna without restriction. According to the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), Canada is supposed to take only three hundred fifty tons—so that's what's reported. However, American seiners claim that the Canadians have been taking as much as one thousand tons. The Canadian Government agreed to go along with the original U.S. proposal by discouraging their vessels from entering our tuna fishery. That probably made up for the excessive fishing by the American seiners or, at least part of it. Now the question is: will the Canadians go along with the program again next year after watching the American seiners take advantage of NMFS ineptitude?

Indeed, no matter how well thought out a plan NMFS might come up with, it will be completely at the mercy of any foreign country that may decide to go into the tuna seining business off our coast. Since tuna are exempted from the 200-Mile Limit, there is nothing to stop any foreign country from fishing right up to our three-mile territorial limit for that species. Technically, those countries belonging to ICCAT would be under some restrictions as to total catch. However, that organization has no teeth, and any non-member can fish without restraints of any kind. That would include such countries as Mexico and Venezuela.

As it is, the Japanese have a very adverse effect on our entire conservation effort by taking over eight thousand pre-spawning giant tuna from the Gulf of Mexico each spring—plus many additional tons of school tuna in the northeast late in the fall. These catches are made by longline, and are legal by ICCAT standards. The Commerce and State Departments have totally failed to keep the Japanese out of these fisheries, and the U.S. fisherman has had to suffer the consequences. Actually, it's only the sport fisherman who's taken it on the chin. The seiners made out beautifully this year with increased catches and high prices. Yet, the total sport fishing catch remains at a level which probably represents what was taken on a single weekend off Long Island in the Fifties!

The picture on the giants isn't any better, except for the three hundred pounders from the '73 year class that may provide some fishing in the future. The seiners got their increased quota this year, all right; but the northern "hand-gear" quota won't be filled, even though the season is still open. Little more than two thousand giants have been caught so far—the vast majority on handlines. There are still quite a few giants around, and many more would be landed if all restrictions were taken off. However, definite signs of decline have set in. The situation is even worse in the area south of Cape Cod, where very few giants were taken this year—and the small quota has never been filled.

Worst of all, the outlook for next year is no better. The seiners won't be penalized for almost doubling their school tuna catch this year. The "phase-out" of that fishery will take some time, and I'll be surprised if it ever really happens. Bruce Freeman is a dedicated public servant, with a great knowledge of the fishery and a realistic idea of what is required to bring it back. Unfortunately, the decisions are made in the Commerce Department—where the tuna industry calls the shots. I see little hope for this fishery until the reorganization plan taking fisheries out of Commerce and putting them in a new Natural Resources Department is approved—and that will almost surely be in another Administration.

Change in Tagging Operation

The Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution is no longer acting as a distribution center for the Cooperative Game Fish Tagging Program. Frank Mather, who ran the program at Woods Hole, has retired; but is still working on the tuna data he's accumulated in twenty-eight years of research, as well as fishing in his twenty-eight foot Bertram, "Ahi." Tag requests should now go to: Cooperative Game Fish Tagging Program, Southeast Fisheries Center, National Marine Fisheries Service/NOAA, 75 Virginia Beach Drive, Miami, Florida 33149.

This program is devoted to billfishes, tunas and amberjack. Old Woods Holes cards may still be used; but to comply with new Postal Regulations, they must be mailed in envelopes at least five inches long and three-and-one-half inches wide.

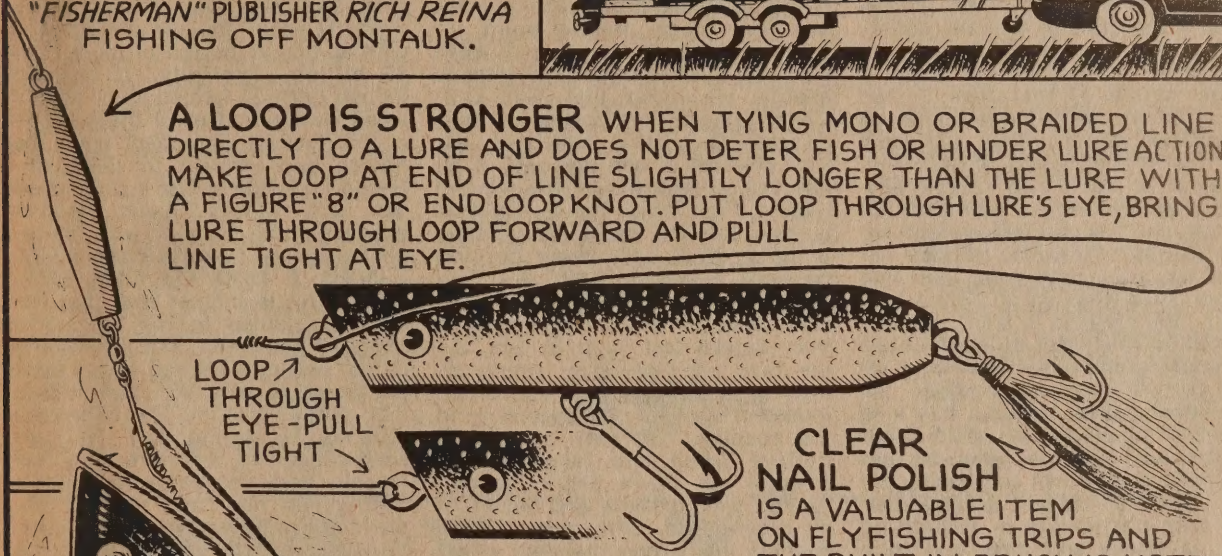
FISHERMAN TIPS

BY FRED GUARDINEER

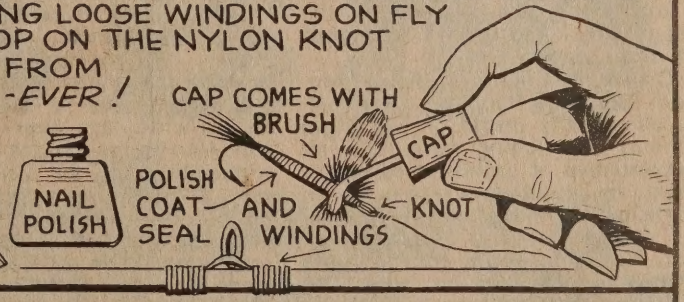
WEAKFISH ON DIAMOND JIGS. THE TRICK IS TO DROP THE JIG TO THE BOTTOM - *SLOWLY WIND UP 8 TURNS OF THE REEL* - AND DROP AGAIN IF NO HIT. HUGE CATCHES OF 7-14 LB. WEAKS WERE TAKEN THIS WAY UNDER THE VERRAZANO BRIDGE REPORTS *STEVE MELANDER*, A REGULAR ON THE FREEPORT *"CAPT. AL"*. THE SAME METHOD WORKED FOR *"FISHERMAN"* PUBLISHER *RICH REINA* FISHING OFF MONTAUK.

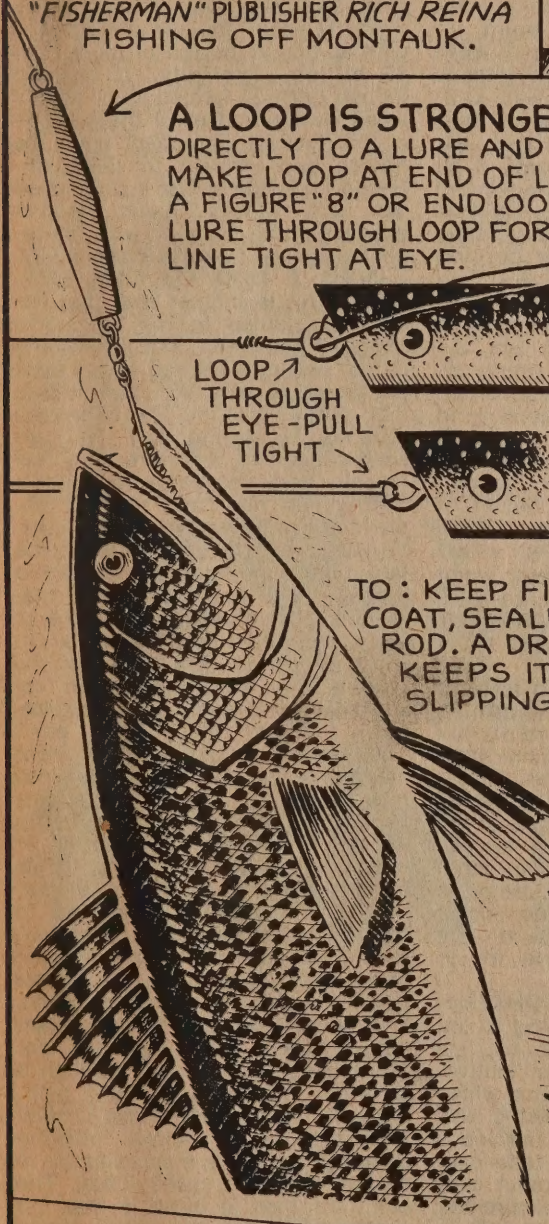
WHEN YOU LEAD YOUR OUTBOARD RIG FOR THE TRAILER TRIP HOME, TOSS THREE BUCKETS OF WATER IN IT PLUS A HALF CUP OF DETERGENT. WHILE YOU DRIVE, AGITATION CLEANS THE INSIDE OF YOUR BOAT. AT HOME DIRT DRAINS OUT.

A LOOP IS STRONGER WHEN TYING MONO OR BRAIDED LINE DIRECTLY TO A LURE AND DOES NOT DETER FISH OR HINDER LURE ACTION. MAKE LOOP AT END OF LINE SLIGHTLY LONGER THAN THE LURE WITH A FIGURE "8" OR END LOOP KNOT. PUT LOOP THROUGH LURE'S EYE, BRING LURE THROUGH LOOP FORWARD AND PULL LINE TIGHT AT EYE.

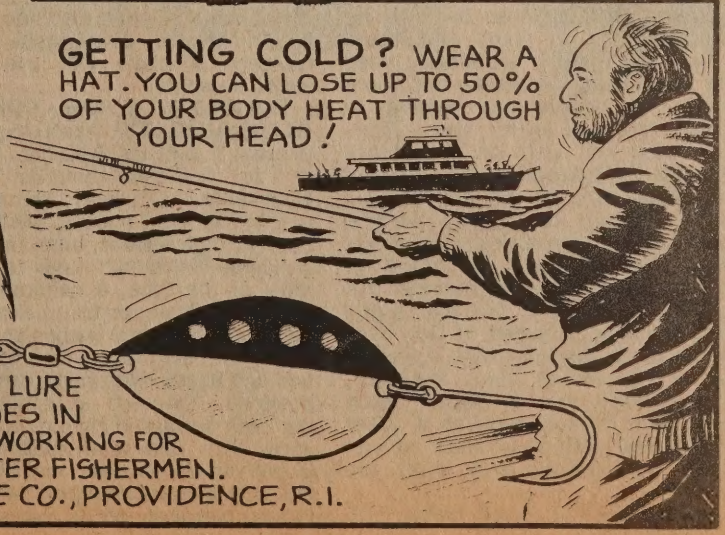


CLEAR NAIL POLISH IS A VALUABLE ITEM ON FLY FISHING TRIPS AND THE BUILT IN BRUSH IS USED TO: KEEP FISHING FLY HEAD FROM UNWINDING, POLISH COAT, SEALING LOOSE WINDINGS ON FLY ROD. A DROP ON THE NYLON KNOT KEEPS IT FROM SLIPPING - *EVER!*





GETTING COLD? WEAR A HAT. YOU CAN LOSE UP TO 50% OF YOUR BODY HEAT THROUGH YOUR HEAD!



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FISH TALK

with Dr. William A. Muller

FISHERMEN & THEIR IMAGES

DIRTY OLD SALTS! Do you feel like a dirty old salt? You don't? Well, that's the image that follows you wherever you go. When I first started dating my wife, and I was introduced to her grandmother (who is a very refined lady), her first comment was: "But he's a fisherman!" Never mind the college professor, the Ph.D., or any of the other accessories of civilized society that I have managed to collect over the years. I was, in her eyes, a fisherman and, therefore, I had slime on my hands, dirt under my fingernails, and a strange aura about me that smelled faintly of dead fish, whether or not I had caught anything within recent memory! Of course, she has changed her perception since I have gotten to know her and we are great pals; but that experience makes an important point. Why should it take firsthand and intimate contact for the average non-fishing citizen to learn what we are really like? Unfortunately, the conditioning that leads to this kind of adult attitude has its roots in our childhood. Parents who do not understand what fish and fishing are all about are reluctant to have their children participate in something that is smelly and dirty and their feelings are passed on to their children. Let's face it: fishing can be a messy business, but that's why some smart old primitive person invented soap!

CHANGING THE IMAGE! Modern sportfishermen have done much to change the image of the group among non-fishing persons. The development of sophisticated equipment, an almost private jargon, and participation in ecological programs, to say nothing of fish release activities and public tournaments have all helped in this goal. The entire world is and has been taking another look at fish; and thus, fishing too! Today, we clearly need the sea and its resources and more and more people are coming to realize this fact every year. Thus, the need for fish on the table changes the perception they have of the people who go out and harvest them. Angling has finally become more science than luck and mystery. Isaac Walton would be proud in spite of the fact that it perhaps took too long to get here. One may argue that shrinking supplies of fish have forced us to become more scientific in our approaches, and, therefore, we shouldn't be too happy about that. Still, fishing remains a great recreational pastime in which we can forget our troubles and enjoy the outdoors.

IRONICALLY! Last week, we discussed how fishermen might be able to save energy and in so doing, add more trips and more fun to their season. Thus, it is ironic that I recently received a brochure from the Boating Industry Associations that addresses itself to both the point of energy and the image of fishermen. Thomas Boyle of BIA public relations was quick to point out that many people point an accusing finger at boats and those who own them as primary wasters of energy. He shows that 1978 U.S. Coast Guard data indicates that recreational boating consumes less than **one-half** of **one per cent** of all gasoline consumed in the United States. Thus, is it fair to say that boating is a rich man's gas-guzzling activity? Not only does boating consume relatively little gas, but 62.2 per cent of all registered motorboats in this country are less than sixteen feet long. In fact, 3.1 per cent are more than twenty-six feet, which is a very small portion indeed of the total boat population in this country. This may be hard to believe when one takes a ride through our North Shore harbors, littered with cruisers and yachts of all descriptions. Still, although the boats in the harbors maintain a very high public profile, a head count reveals relatively few craft.

HOW MANY BOATS AND HOW MUCH GAS? Since there are about eleven million registered power boats in the United States, 3.1% of that total equates to 341,000 boats, nation-wide, are over twenty-six feet. Now to the big gas consumers. Automobiles in the United States used **310 BILLION** gallons of gas in 1978. To gain a perspective as to the importance of this number, we can relate the following statistic: automobiles in the State of California will consume more gasoline during the month of July than all the recreational boats will use in an entire season!!!

FISHING IS A FUEL CONSERVATIVE ACTIVITY! According to the Boating Industries Associations, this is true. Now everything is relative. True compared to water skiing which is done at high speeds, racing also done at high speeds, and continuous cruising, fishermen use less gas. Most of the time, a fisherman uses his or her boat to get to where the fish are. Then they anchor or drift to take fish. Furthermore, since most fishing boats are small and low-powered, the rate of consumption per hour is less than high performance craft. Even trolling is fuel conservative because the boat is being pushed at low rpm when the motor operates at a higher efficiency.

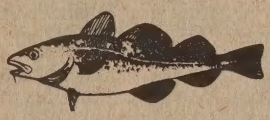
ECONOMY COULD BE HURT! Tom Boyle points out correctly that curbing the use of fuel by fishermen and boat owners in general, could produce severe hardships for the economies of local areas. The boating industry consists of 19,000 companies with annual retail sales of over $6.5 BILLION. The industry supports about one-half million jobs with an annual payroll of more than $3 billion. Typically, a boating industry firm is located in or near a small town and much of the economy of that town is dependent upon the health and vitality of the firm. Recession in the industry could spell out local tragedy. Again, another example of the economic and, hence, political power that fishermen wield!

DOES A HOOKED FISH FEEL PAIN? This is another area that has long contributed to the traditional image of fishermen. The non-fishing citizen says how can you stick a hook in the mouth of a poor defenseless fish; doesn't it hurt? The fisherman counters by saying that fish are coldblooded and, therefore, they feel no pain. Well, maybe we can make a contribution here and now to improve our image. Fish are "coldblooded," but that only refers to the fact that they do not maintain a constant body temperature and that their body temperature conforms to the temperature of the water in which they swim. That's one of the reasons why fish migrate: in response to changing water temperatures. However, they do feel pain. They have to, because they have nerve endings that relate sensations to their brains. In fact, their mouths probably have more free nerve endings than many other parts of their bodies. We went through this in some detail in an earlier column; so you might want to refer back to this. However, does that mean we should not hook them, or kill them, or eat them? Not at all. Cattle feel pain upon slaughter, so do chickens, and maybe (according to some plant people) plants have feelings, too! The bluefish that slashes through a school of bunker is inflicting pain, but it is his role. He doesn't inflict pain because he enjoys inflicting pain, but rather, it is coincidental to his life style—his niche! Okay. The point we wish to make is that the notion of fishermen using sharp pointed metal hooks to impale fish does not help our image, in spite of the fact that we do not deliberately inflict pain. Although we must use hooks to catch our fish, we can take steps to improve the image. Many of today's fishermen are using barbless hooks for two very good reasons.

First, the hook enters the fish easily and then can be removed without difficulty and without tearing flesh. Second, there is a safety factor for the fisherman. A hook that enters the hand can also be easily removed. Since there is little damage to tissues in the area where the hook entered, there is a smaller wound that bleeds less, and is less likely to become infected. Fishermen are also releasing more fish, too, and thus the image of the careless angler tearing the hooks from the mouth of a fish is slowly disappearing.

RECOGNITION! Happily then, the world of non-fishing people is gradually beginning to see fishermen as precise and concerned sportsmen. We are not in it for the kill. In fact, I have never met a fisherman who fished just to kill something. For, more important to all fishermen is the battle or fight. The battle is complex and includes much more than the final struggle between the fish on one end of the line and the angler on the other. Included is the chase: to calculate and figure where the fish will be and then what it will take to interest them. The fish on the line struggling to be free is also a battle that fishermen enjoy, but it is far more important to recognize that the struggling fish is a symbol that at least one fisherman succeeded in the hunt! The struggle between fish and fisherman linked by the thin thread of line is enjoyable, not because of the power that man exercises over animal, but because the fisherman can admire the runs of a powerful game fish, the determination to set themselves free at all costs, and the cunning employed to shake a hook. The fisherman, for his or her part, gives the fish maximum advantage by using a rod and reel, which is a third class lever. Third class levers provide the least mechanical advantage to the user. The fisherman also uses a thin line which is susceptible to breaks from abrasion, cutting, and stretching. The fish is fighting in its element and the fisherman often finds himself outside his element. Surf fishermen carry this philosophy one step further by reducing mobility and increasing the angle of the fight between the fish and the angler: up and down battles provide far more leverage than horizontal ones.

"I DON'T GET NO RESPECT!" Rodney Dangerfield says that folks just don't respect him, but fishermen are gaining more respect everyday. Be a good guy. Don't litter the beach or the ocean, and fight the fish fair!



THE CAPTAIN'S TABLE

(Continued from page 13.)

and peeled onion, 1 teaspoon mustard and salt and pepper to taste. Bring to a boil and then simmer, with a cover on the kettle, until quite thick (this will take at least 30 minutes). Serve each portion with a sprinkling of parsley.

Spanish Rice with Fish

Boil 1 cup of rice, according to package directions until tender and combine it with the following: 1 small onion, peeled and sauteed in butter with 1 small green pepper, seeded and chopped. Add 1 can of stewed tomatoes (including liquid) and 1 cup of cooked and flaked dogfish. Season this mixture to taste with red pepper, salt and chili powder and simmer until the sauce is somewhat reduced. Garnish the rice with sliced olives, capers and hard-cooked eggs and serve with a green salad on the side.

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THE CAPTAIN'S TABLE
TABLE LURES
with Helen Groll

DOGFISH & HUSH PUPPIES

Helen Groll passed away suddenly on October 20th. This article by Helen was submitted shortly before her untimely death.

Until fairly recently, the dogfish was considered to be a mere nuisance to the angler and certainly not a prize for the table. Fortunately this situation is changing. With the rising prices of all types of food, people have been tempted to sample these tasty fish and have been pleasantly surprised. With the abundance of so many good-eating fish in American waters, unlike Europeans, we have tended to ignore the humble sand shark. Perhaps some of the aversion to eating shark has arisen from the fact hat many people consider them to be scavengers. As far as dogfish are concerned, this is hardly true. According to **McClane's Standard Fishing Encyclopedia**, the main diet of the smooth dogfish consists of crabs, lobsters, squid and fish (primarily menhaden and tautog). I can attest as to this being true, since some of the dogfish I have cleaned, yielded up a stomach content of partially digested tiny lobsters and grass shrimp.

While mako and white shark also make fine eating, we will deal with them in a separate column, since they require somewhat different treatment in the kitchen. For the moment, let us address ourselves solely to the smaller specimens of the smooth dogfish that come up so frequently on the average angler's line.

It is especially important to gut and bleed your catch as soon as possible since all sharks have a urinary system that is distributed throughout the body. The hasty removal of the internal organs will result in a sweeter tasting end product. For the same reason, we like to soak the fillets or steaks in some acidulated water overnight before cooking. Use 1 teaspoon of vinegar or lemon juice per quart of water. This treatment also makes the flesh more tender. This is not to say that sand shark is tough, however; far from it! If you do soak the fish you will have a better tasting dish and you will simply reduce the amount of time it takes to cook.

Depending on the size of the doggies you have, you will either want to fillet or steak them. Remove the skin. You will find the flesh to be firm. The absence of small bones is a real plus when it comes to those "picky eaters" who like their fish boneless. The large central bone may be easily removed when filleting, or if you steak the fish, the central bone can be cut clear through and easily removed after cooking. Dogfish steaks have much the same shape and appearance as swordfish steaks and are every bit as tasty!

Sand shark seems to freeze quite well, especially if it's been bathed in acidulated water first. Leftover, cooked doggies can also be used very successfully in casseroles and fish cakes (we call them dog cakes).

Now, as to Dogfish and Hush Puppies, this is an adaptation of a down-south recipe that originally calls for catfish. However, dogfish fit the bill quite well here and may marry even better than the cats do with the "pups."

Dogfish and Hush Puppies

Prepare pieces of dogfish fillet or chunks taken from steaks by rinsing them and then patting them dry. Roll the pieces in cornmeal that you have seasoned to taste with salt and cayenne pepper. Fry the fish in 1/2" of oil over a moderate flame until golden brown. Drain the fish on paper toweling and keep warm while you make the "puppies." Add enough oil to the skillet to make a depth of about 2" and allow it to get hot, but not smoking, while you mix up the following batter:

Combine 1 cup yellow cornmeal with 1/2 teaspoon baking powder, 1/2 teaspoon salt and 2 tablespoons minced onion. Beat 1 egg well with 1/4 cup milk and mix this into the dry ingredients. Form the mixture into finger-shaped patties and fry in the hot oil until golden and crispy. Serve the fish and "puppies" with lemon wedges and tartar sauce.

Mock Shrimp Doggies

Use about 1/2 lb. of 1/2" thick dogfish fillets for this one. Lay the fillets in a non-metallic dish and cover with 2 tablespoons lemon juice and enough water to submerge them. Chill the fish for at least 3 hours or overnight; then drain and pat dry. Roll the fillets in Italian-flavored bread crumbs and fry them in deep fat for about 4 minutes, or until crisp and golden. Serve a horseradish-ketchup cocktail sauce on the side along with lemon wedges.

Sweet and Sour Sand Shark

Cut 2 lbs. of sand shark (skinless and boneless) into 1" chunks and roll them in flour that has been seasoned to taste with salt and pepper. Put the fish in the fridge to let the coating "set" while you make the sauce.

In a saucepan, combine the following: 2 thinly sliced carrots, 1 sliced green pepper, 3 scallions, trimmed and cut in 1" pieces, 2 slices of canned pineapple, cut in bite-sized tidbits, 1/2 cup vinegar, 1/2 cup sugar, 1/2 cup chicken stock, 1/4 teaspoon salt and a dash of freshly ground pepper. Bring this mixture to a boil and simmer for fifteen minutes, then add 1 tablespoon cornstarch dissolved in 2 tablespoons of water and cook the sauce until it's thickened. Deep fry the fish chunks until golden and crispy and drain on paper toweling. Reheat the sauce and pour over the warm fish. Serve immediately with hot rice on the side.

Poached Dogfish For Salad

Combine 1 qt. of water and 2 teaspoons of pickling spice in a good-sized saucepan. Bring to a boil, then lower the heat until the liquid just barely "shivers." Add 1 lb. of dogfish fillet, skinned and boned. Keep the water just barely boiling until the fillets flake easily when tested with a fork. Drain off the liquid and flake the fish into a non-metallic bowl. Chill for at least 3 hours. To make your salad, combine the following ingredients in whatever proportion suits your fancy: chopped celery, chopped onion, chopped green peppers, chopped pickled peppers, salt, pepper, bottled capers, and mayonnaise. Chill the salad well and then serve each portion on a bed of lettuce leaves, garnished with radish roses, tomato wedges, and thinly sliced lemon.

Dogfish Stew—Italian Style

Saute in 1½ tablespoons of butter, the following: 1 small onion, peeled and sliced, 1 small carrot, peeled and diced, 1/4 teaspoon thyme, 1 bay leaf, 1 teaspoon chopped parsley and 1½ lbs. of skinless and boneless dogfish chunks. Add 1/2 cup of dry red wine, 3 tablespoons raw rice, 3 cups of chicken broth and 2 cups of canned tomatoes (including liquid). Add 1 tablespoon butter and salt and pepper to taste. Simmer for 1/2 hour and serve with hot Italian bread and butter.

Shish-Ke-Dogs

These would be fine to make over your grill outdoors. Lacking a grill, you can make them under the broiler. Either way, they're really good!

Start with about 2 lbs. of skinless, boneless dogfish chunks. Marinate them for at least one hour in the following mixture: 1/4 cup oil, 1/2

cup dry, white wine, 3 tablespoons lemon juice, 1/2 teaspoon dill seed, 1/2 teaspoon dried tarragon, 1/4 teaspoon paprika and 1/4 teaspoon salt. Thread the fish chunks on skewers, alternating them with squares of seeded green pepper, small, peeled white onions, cherry tomatoes and mushroom caps. Broil or grill the skewers for ten minutes, basting frequently with the marinade. Serve the skewers, one to a person, with rice and lemon wedges on the side.

Broiled Dogfish with White Mountain Topping

Place some dogfish steaks in a greased broiling pan and top them with this sauce: Combine mayonnaise with lemon juice, salt, pepper, and chopped chives to taste. Sprinkle on some grated cheese and broil the steaks until the topping is browned and the fish flakes easily when tested with a fork.

Salty Dog Fish Balls

These make an unusual and tasty appetizer for the cocktail table. Serve some ketchup-horseradish type sauce on the side and have some lemon wedges ready. If you make them in advance, you can reheat them in a low oven just prior to serving them up.

Combine 2 cups of flaked, cooked dogfish wtih 2 cups of cold mashed potatoes, 1 slightly beaten egg, 1 teaspoon minced parsley and salt, pepper and Tabasco Sauce to taste. Chill this mixture for at least one hour and then form it into bite-sized balls. Roll the balls in flour, then in beaten egg and then in seasoned crumbs (the Italian type works very well here). Allow the coated fish balls to chill in the fridge for at least another hour. This will ensure that the coating will adhere to them. Heat a skillet about half full with cooking oil and allow it to get really hot, but not smoking. Fry the fish balls a few at a time until golden brown and drain them on paper toweling before serving.

Deviled Dogs

Combine 2 cups of cooked and flaked dogfish with 1 cup of medium white sauce (your own or from a packaged mix), 2 teaspoons Worchestershire Sauce, 1 teaspoon minced parsley, 1 teaspoon minced onion or chives, 1/4 teaspoon salt, 1/2 teaspoon curry powder (optional) and a dash of paprika. Top with 1/2 cup of buttered crumbs and bake at 400° for 30 minutes.

Baked Sand Shark Appetizer Bits

If you don't tell your guests what these succulent morsels are made of, they'll probably take them for scallops.

Start with some boneless, skinless dogfish chunks, cut into bite-sized pieces. Mix together equal amounts of soy sauce and sherry and marinate the pieces of fish for at least an hour in the fridge. Now take 1 piece of fish and 1/2 of a canned water chestnut and wrap it in a 1/2 piece of thinly sliced bacon. Secure the bundle with a toothpick and broil until the bacon is crisp.

Quick Dogfish Soup

This is so simple, it will take not more than five minutes to prepare if you have some leftover dogfish on hand that has been cooked and flaked.

Prepare a can of cream of tomato soup according to directions on the can. When the soup starts to simmer, add 1 cup or so of fish flakes along with a sprinkle of chives and some fresh parsley. You can serve this hot or cold. If you choose to serve it cold, top each serving with a spoonful of sour cream.

Baked Sand Shark Fillets

Lightly brown 2 lbs. of shark fillet in some butter in a skillet, then lay the fillets in a greased baking dish. Combine 1 cup of sour cream with 1 tablespoon lemon juice, 1 teaspoon minced onion and salt and pepper to taste. Spread this mixture over the fillets and top with 1/2 cup of bread crumbs that have been mixed with 3 tablespoons parmesan cheese and 1 teaspoon of minced parsley. Drizzle 1/4 cup of melted butter over the top and bake in a preheated 450° oven for 20 minutes. Serve with boiled new potatoes on the side.

Rolled Dogs in Mushroom Sauce

For this recipe, use about 1 lb. of 1/2" thick dogfish fillet. Combine 1/2 can of undiluted cream of mushroom soup with 1/2 cup of bread crumbs and 1 small, finely minced onion. Spread this mixture on each fillet, then roll them up, pinwheel fashion and secure with toothpicks. Lay the fillets in a greased baking dish and combine the other 1/2 can of soup with 1 cup of dry white wine. Pour this over the "pinwheels" and dot with butter. Bake the fish in a 350° oven until it flakes easily when tested with a fork.

"Scallop" Casserole

Do the preliminary preparations for 1 package of scalloped potato mix and then stir in the following before baking: 1 cup of cooked, flaked dogfish, 1 teaspoon capers, 2 tablespoons sliced, ripe olives, 1 teaspoon minced onion and 1 teaspoon minced celery. Bake according to package directions and serve with a green salad on the side for a light, but tasty, summer meal.

Dogfish Chowder

Use 2 lbs. of cooked, boned and flaked dogfish (see the recipe for cooking above). Combine the fish with 2 cups of water, 1 cup of cream, 1/4 stick of butter, 1 sliced

(Continued on page 11.)

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Sinker Bouncing

with Matt Ahern

COD PRIMER

Some time ago, I received a letter from John Kobeck of Yonkers. John wrote he was interested in surf fishing and asked if I could give him information on where he might try his luck. Because I'm not a surf fisherman (although I occasionally give it a shot from time to time), there wasn't too much I could tell him about this most difficult of fishing methods. After John had exhausted my meager information, and not doing well at all with it, I suggested he contact the LIF surf fishing columnists who know more about the game than I will ever learn. He did. Recently John wrote again, telling me he'd given up all thoughts of making a killing in the surf, but instead planned on concentrating his efforts on this winter's codfishing. To me, this sounded like a sensible idea, for much less time, effort, and knowledge are required to catch codfish than are needed to latch onto surf-run stripers and the like. This I know for a fact, for my codfish catch over the past fifty years numbers into the hundreds, but the amount of stripers I've caught in the surf totals less than a dozen. It's true, of course, that I've devoted more time to codfishing and next to nothing for stripers; but this is because I desire better odds when fishing. I long ago concluded the pursuit of stripers wasn't for a fisherman of my particular tastes.

I tip my fishing cap to the dedicated, successful surf fisherman, for he is the elite of our clan. To each his own they say—and that certainly is true for me.

But all this isn't to say winter codfishing is easy. It is far from that. And I'm not referring to the cold, inclement weather common on the sea at this time of year. This is no great problem, for with today's technology in winter wear for the outdoorsman, there is no reason in the world why we must go out there dressed like mummies and still freeze as we once did in the long ago. I know from whence I speak, for one day I frost-bit eight fingers during the heyday of great codfishing. If that isn't dedication (and foolishness), I don't know what is.

But even in those days when excellent winter codfishing was common, fishermen still had to know their stuff. And now when today's codfishing is a far cry from those long gone days, it is extremely important to know as much as possible about the sport. Halfway measures today will get novice codfishermen nowhere.

Forty to fifty years ago, even the beginner with minimum skills could expect some measure of success, but now with fewer fish and much competition, those cod we seek can well afford to be choosey. But as discouraging as this sounds, all is not lost, and I guess it's true that every dark cloud has a silver lining, for the cod is a chowhound—its appetite being its downfall. Actually, there is more of a problem finding cod today than it is getting them to bite.

With this in mind, I have an article about this in next week's issue which tells of problems Artie Leidecker and I encountered.)

Fishermen who have been cod-hunting for any length of time know that by October's end, vanguards heralding the approaching season usually put in an appearance off the western end of Long Island and northern New Jersey. It rarely pays to expect good results this early, as most of these cod are caught by surprised wreck fishermen out after blackfish. It is best to wait until mid-November (or slightly before), giving the fish time to settle before attempting to give it a whirl.

Though what follows is not a hard, fast rule, I have found that before mid-November, cod are often caught in shallow water—say forty to fifty feet, and usually over open bottom. By November's end, as the water cools more to the cod's liking, the majority of these fish will have moved farther offshore.

It is then when such places as the Cholera Bank, Southeast Ground, 17 Fathom Bank, the Farms, Angler Bank, Middle Ground, Ambrose Ridge, Ambrose Tower, and the Subway Ground offers cod to the party boat fisherman and those private boat anglers who know these spots.

Just exactly when cod will hit into these areas is governed solely by water temperature. That is why there have been seasons when I have had good codfishing in these offshore spots as early as the first week of November and in other years, as late as mid-December. By mid-December, sunken wrecks and various high-spots in depths over fifty feet can be expected to produce cod.

Proper tackle to fish these areas is required. Because the average winter cod will weigh from six to ten pounds (if you're lucky, these may be the smallest you'll catch on a good day), spinning gear will not do. You cannot successfully use this tender tackle where heavy sinkers (which may weigh ten to twelve ounces) are required and in water which can be as much as one hundred feet deep. Use that light stuff for shallow water inshore fishing, but forget it if you want your share of cod. Such tackle will only bring you grief on the codfish grounds.

The rod you use should have backbone enough to sink the hook into a cod that may go forty or more pounds, and stiff enough to aid in winching that cod to the surface. But to use a rod with the resiliency of a two by four is foolish indeed, for it will only cut down on your sport. There are many suitable rods on the market and it is to your advantage to avail yourself of one.

Many codfishermen have made a fetish of proper rod length. Some feel that the longer the rod, the easier it is to fish away from the competition. Which, of course, is true. But let me remind you that the greatest cod-producing rig is a dropline in the hands of an expert. And how far can you cast a dropline on a party boat?

In this respect, it isn't so much what you use to catch cod, but what you know about these fish and their habits that bring calls for the gaff. If you are undecided about rod length, select one a foot longer than your height. You will find such a rod easy to use and it won't become tiring during the day.

As for the reel you use, make sure it is the best you can afford. Don't attempt to save a buck here. Unless that reel of interest carries a name you recognize, one that is nationally advertised, or one that an experienced buddy recommends—forget about it. A reel to be used for codfishing must, of necessity, be rugged. A good reel, with proper maintenance, will last for many years no matter how often you use it.

To show how important this is, let me add that I have a Penn 155 which I use exclusively for codfishing. It is forty-five years old and I've taken it apart only once (twenty years ago) and that was only because I was intrigued by its wondrous internal mechanisms. I wanted to know why such a reel could stand the abuse I gave it and still perform as well as the day I first used it. I might as well have been blind, for I could see nothing to answer my question; but whatever is in that reel, rest assured all other good reels have it—no matter what their make. Let a word to the wise be sufficient.

Your reel should be equipped with a star drag which operates smoothly. It also should be capable of holding at least one hundred fifty yards of thirty or forty pound test, good quality monofialment. If it has a metal spool, so much the better. That smooth-operating star drag is important. You may have a five pound cod in your bucket at the moment, but one never knows what the next one will weigh. If you latch onto a forty pounder, you'll be thankful for that drag.

Rigging for cod is simplicity itself.

Some codfishermen use but one hook, and they feel a 5/0 to 8/0 regular shanked Sproat rigged on an

eighteen inch, forty pound test leader, placed about three-and-a-half feet above the sinker is best. (My preference has long been the 5/0). These are the fellows who believe this high hook discourages most bottom fish (ling, blacks, bergalls, and such) from taking hold, thereby giving cruising cod a better opportunity to seize the bait.

They have a point, of course, but most fishermen use the popular two-hook, hi-lo rig, by placing a bottom hook about four inches above the sinker. This aids in catching a bonus of ling and blackfish while waiting out their cod. What you prefer to do is entirely up to you. Unless there are many bergalls in the area, which in turn will drive you to distraction with their bottom hook bait-stealing, I would opt for the two-hook rig.

The bottom hook can be either a 3/0 or 4/0 Sproat. Cod will occasionally pick up a bottom bait and either of these hooks is strong enough to handle a cod should this happen. Fishermen are often surprised at how large a fish can be brought to the surface with these smaller hooks. This is why your reel should have a good star drag: it is half the battle.

One of the most important things to know about cod is that they are shy and often extremely cautious. Be careful when rigging up. Shun all those gaudy beads, brass hook lears, and such. They will cost you fish. Watch the experienced fisherman. He has learned to use nothing more than suitable three-way swivels, or "Quick-Rigs." Go and do likewise.

I know excellent codfishermen who look upon three-way swivels and "Quick-Rigs" with jaundiced eyes. These fellows use nothing but one inch dropper loops made with double-overhand knots at the appropriate places on the main line. I'm not that much of a rig fanatic, but to each his own.

Bait is no problem.

One nice thing about cod is that they consider anything in the sea fair game if it will fit into their cavernous mouths. Strips of fish bait such as squid, herring, mackerel chunks, and bergalls are all good. I once saw cod caught on chicken heads! But there is no sense in using exotic baits when skimmer clam is so readily available and will do as well.

And here we come to a subject of much discussion. Many fishermen believe because the cod is a big fish, blessed with a large mouth, oversized baits must be used to be successful. I have never found this to be so. I know I have caught more cod on half a sliced skimmer, or a third of a large one, than I have on whole skimmer. Some fellows have no qualms about putting on two or more. And then they stand by in wonderment as they watch others deck most of the cod.

This is not to say you won't catch cod with big baits; only that you will catch fewer than you should. I've been out on those wonderful days when cod bit everything but the anchor, but they have been few and far between. On such days, large as well as small baits will work. But it won't pay to wait for such spectacular fishing. You've got to take advantage of what you have going for you at the time. That's why I use a 5/0 hook. With such a hook, the fisherman finds it just about impossible to overload it with bait.

There is also another advantage. Less bait on a hook means the current can hold it out and away from the main line. (Remember what was said about the cod's shyness.) Hooks which are heavily laden with bait have a tendency to hang down and wrap around the main line. I have never known a cod to approach such a rig and do its own untangling in order to reach the bait. Again, a word to the wise...

Most codfishing is done aboard party boats—and you can't beat that type of fishing. For the few bucks it will cost you, you have the services of a skipper with much cod-hunting experience—some of which goes back fifty years. Unless beginning codfishermen have buddies with a suitable private boat and much cod experience, I recommend giving party boats a try. You can also get a few interested friends together and charter. You can't go wrong on that. If fish are to be found, charter boat skippers will find them.

Where you fish for cod on board a party boat is important—especially when anchored over open bottom. Stern fishing is good and you will find most fishermen covet this spot. Midships produces less, except when wreck fishing where, in this instance, everyone has an equal chance. When fishing open bottom, my favorite spot is the bow. I always select this spot when the weather permits. Competition is nil and the whole, wide ocean is before you.

Let us all hope codfishing will be good this year. It hasn't been too spectacular these past several years, but it is about time for a change. All we can do is hope and look to the fishing gods. But that shouldn't keep you from giving it a try.

I know I'll be out there.

TAGGING FISH *(Coninued from page 20.)*

conservation may write the Society at Sandy Hook, Highlands, N.J. 07732.

The only word of caution here is that, although all biologists with whom this reporter spoke, spoke only with enthusiasm for the tagging of marine species, freshwater fish—especially those in areas where they have been bred and nursed in hatcheries—may not be fair game for tagging in all states. A call to the Alaskan Fish and Game Commission brought a negative response from a spokesman there when questioned on the appropriateness of tagging in that north country. A call to the state or local game or wildlife commission might be a good practice before tagging—especially in freshwater.

If you decide to tag, realize, as Byron Young of the New York State Marine Fisheries puts it, "you're increasing the communication between sportsman and scientist."

Not only that: your next fish story may not be about the one that got away, but rather about the one that returned.

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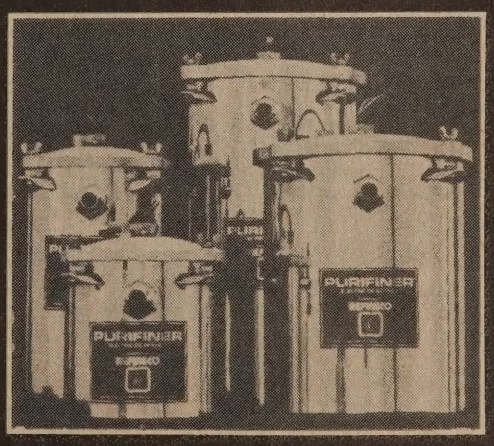

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Saltwater fly rodders have been leaving their mark on our waters for quite sometime. It has only been within the last five or six years, however, that this sport has made its tremendous upsurge in popularity. If one were to try to give specific reasons for this trend, forgetting for a moment the vast technical aspects, one might offer three reasons: first, that there was, and still is, a trend for anglers to fight and land fish using the very lightest of equipment; second, that the use of fly rods, often considered for saltwater, was not popular until the last decade when equipment manufacturers recognized the need for saltwater tackle; third, that anglers are able to easily add a dynamic new dimension to their sport by fly fishing and are doing so profusely. The amount of equipment that has been introduced during the last decade has led some anglers to believe that it is easier to identify what is **not** new, rather than what is! With this in mind, several of the articles I wrote last year greatly reduced the limitless array of products to those necessary to get out of the starting blocks and over the first hurdle in good shape.

Surf Side
with
Paul Reynolds

A FRESH LOOK AT FLYRODDING

★PART ONE★

Now that almost a year-and-a-half has passed since those articles were written, it would be possible to discuss any number of new equipment items. The new materials used in rod making; the new reels; guides, as well as new design features, would be but a few. The changes cover the full spectrum of fly rodding. Of immediate importance are the "in-water" developments. For our purposes, these will include the fly line, the leader, and the fly.

Most of what I have termed new developments are not new to the fly fishing world—only to our area. The majority of equipment that has been introduced was really designed with anglers from southern and western fisheries in mind. Also, most writing done on saltwater fly fishing concerns these areas. Consequently, anglers in our area have either had to try to synthesize information on the Florida Keys, San Francisco Bay, etc., into some useful purpose, or rely totally on their own ingenuity.

Perhaps the area with the greatest improvement is the new fly lines being produced. The manufacturers fully realize that there are changes in water depth and tidal and current flows in each fishing area. Lines being turned out (almost on a daily basis) allow fly presentation on the surface, bottom, and intermediate levels under almost all conditions. The number of choices that are available are cause for much uncertainty. A single manufacturer can easily list more than a dozen different lines suited to our needs! I have found, however, that at least ninety per cent of my fishing can be done with three lines, making notes on any area where I will need only two. One of your selections will be a floating line which will cover quite a few situations. Let's select the other two lines.

Depending on the areas that you frequent most often, it is very possible that the two lines you select now will be different from those of someone else. First, you should identify the area that you will be fishing most often. Judge the maximum depth and water flow at a time when you feel ideal fishing conditions will exist. You will choose one line that will allow your fly to either just "skirt" or "bump" the bottom. The second line chosen should allow the fly to be presented at mid-depth. As conditions change, the line chosen for mid-depth presentation will become the line used to skirt the bottom. Part of the floating line, as well as the leader and fly, can be dressed to replace the mid-depth line, if needed. It won't be perfect, but it will be very close. There are a number of items on the market used

Paul Reynolds in his "Fly Tying Room" putting the final touches on an order of poppers.

Photo shows fly lines, fly line cleaners, fly reels, leader material and two flies used often in our area.

to "dress" lines in this manner.

While on a weekend fly fishing trip in the Adirondacks a few years ago, I was with a group of anglers far more knowledgeable than I. After waking at about a quarter to five, one gent was frantic that he didn't have toothpaste. Anxiously wanting to get started, I gave him mine, whereupon he said, "I won't forget this." Sure enough, during the day, after he noted my less than impressive results, he walked over and spread some of my toothpaste on the first fifteen feet or so of my leader and line. The line sank beautifully and together we had some great fun casting to some fine trout that were working on emerging caddis flies at about mid-depth. I've used toothpaste religiously for this purpose with excellent results. It stores very easily and one tube will last the season. Other items on the market might be better, but I've never used them.

In choosing your line, it will be necessary to read very carefully the descriptive literature from the manufacturer. Most anglers will be choosing a floating line and some type of extra-fast sinking line. The choice of line for intermediate depths will present some initial problems. Be careful: it will be very easy to waste money. Understand that you cannot walk into just any store and ask for a sinking type line for use at a particular location. I'll mention now that for the last two seasons my intermediate line has been a ten foot sink tip. Should you now be saying, "Oh, he fishes in twenty feet of water," I repeat—read the literature very, very carefully.

The leader is the very critical union between your fly line and your fly. Other writers have devoted much space to discussing leaders which vary from the extremely simple to the exotic. It is possible to walk the beaches and discover anglers using anything from three to twelve foot leaders. So what's new? Recall what was said previously about how the majority of our equipment decisions are made. The fact is that many anglers are finding fly fishing hopelessly perplexing only because they are starting out with some rather suspect advice. You are simply not going to enjoy trying to turn over a 2/0 or 3/0 Deceiver on a ten to twelve foot leader and a light tippet—even if you eventually can do it! In the articles written last year, quite a bit of space was devoted to the purpose, length, construction, etc., of leaders. If necessary, take another look at what was said. For virtually all my fishing needs in our area, a five foot leader is used. One very prominent and productive fly rodder here on the Island, uses a three foot leader for the majority of his endeavors. Sure, there will be a few times that you'll need a nine foot leader, but most experienced fly rodders in our area will agree that you will know when these occasions exist. You will see or hear refusals at these times and when changing to a smaller fly doesn't work, you will know what to do. If you follow the "system" for setting up and changing leaders that was discussed last year, you should be able to change your leader in about thirty seconds. To make the sport slightly more challenging, many anglers have been incorporating the use of very light tippets. I often will use flies tied on #4 hook for weakfish. Sometimes, I will use a light tippet section when they are used. However, when you're using the larger flies tied on size 2/0 and 3/0 hooks, there is far more to lose than there is to gain. At best, this arrangement will simply not turn over properly. This, in turn, will cause many unnecessary problems that are often blamed on most anything except poor leader construction.

Many very experienced fly rodders in our area rarely drop beneath a twelve or fifteen pound tippet section, especially when using one of the sinking lines. There is absolutely no need for anyone relatively new to the sport to use tippets below twelve pound test. Your casting will improve and you will have a lot more fun if you follow this advice. As your experience builds, you will probably want to try one of the "exotic" leaders which allow tippets of almost any pound test to be used, just to get it out of your system.

The key to fly rodding for those who have been most successful is to make every possible attempt to have each item of your equipment as simple as possible. Never be satisfied that it can't be done better, and fish as often as possible.

Next week, Part II of this article will discuss some of the developments made regarding flies: what's been found; do they work?—and tying instructions.

Fall Big Mac Attack

by Bruce Sucher

It was a difficult decision to make. My wife, Marian, was one week into the ninth month of her pregnancy. A strong sense of responsibility, strengthened by a six-week course in natural childbirth, made the choice doubly hard. The difficulty was caused by large schools of mackerel that had been reported a few miles south of Debs Inlet and in various other spots in the New York Bight. And not just the usual late fall "pick a few here and there" mackerel fishing; but full blast, four-at-a-time big mac attacks that are rare in the fall run. (I might add that blitz type mackerel fishing even during the hot spring run has become increasingly rare.)

I finally let my wife make the decision. I assured her first, that if "something happened," I could be reached by way of the marine operator. And if that failed, through a few of the Sheepshead Bay party boat captains who would probably be fishing in the same area and knew me and the private boat I'd be on. With the added assurance that even if the fish "were lining up to hit my jig," I'd return to port. She said "Okay."

The northwest wind had flopped out during the night, and the morning sun was strong. Sonny Rosen did not have to cut back the throttle as we passed through the usually sloppy water just past the Breezy Point jetty. Fifty yards beyond the end of the jetty were a few small center consoles, their occupants jigging and catching mackerel. A good sign, as mackerel are rarely caught this close to home base. Any doubts that I still harbored about the fishing reports were now dispelled. We made a short drift and caught a few fish; but Sonny shook his head and said, "this is not what I had in mind."

We ran to some boats a few miles north of the Ambrose Light Tower. Sonny switched on the Si-Tex graph recorder as we navigated between the other boats working the area. "Salt-and-pepper" readings meant small, scattered schools of fish. We decided to stop and give it a try.

My rig was intercepted about twenty feet down by what proved to be a couple of outsized Boston mackerel. The other three anglers on board the twenty-five foot Mako also landed a few. It was a nice, steady pick and most of the fish were extremely large—averaging about two pounds each. I was using light conventional tackle and twenty pound test Ande. Light enough to enjoy a single, but heavy enough to handle the multiple hook-ups. For now though, most of the action consisted of singles, with a few doubles to add a little spice. To be honest, what I really didn't want was for all four tubes and jig to be occupied—but naturally it happened. About five minutes later, I had fought the quintet of two pounders to the boat and took a coffee and wiped the sweat from my brow break. I clipped two tubes off the rig and continued fishing. The boat began to look like a battlefield. Blood and scales were splattered everywhere and the deck was covered with tail-flapping Bostons.

Then the action died. The party boats scattered, looking for more mackerel. A few headed to points east; others to the south, and a lone wolf decided to give the area near Scotland Light a try. We bided our time for the mackerel and decided to let the whiting fill the lull. A few had been caught on jigs along with the mackerel, so we knew they were in the area. Sonny filleted out a small whiting and made some narrow strip baits. He rigged his medium action "lami" equipped with an ancient wooden sidewinder, with two 3/0 Sproats on fourteen inch lengths of thirty pound leader material. He tied the first hook about one foot above his eight ounce

The day's not over until the boat is clean. Norman stands knee deep in fish as we prepare to unload.

sinker and the second about two-and-a-half feet further up his line.

After the four of us had filled a five-gallon pail with whiting, we decided to look for more mackerel. As Sonny steered us to a point just east of Ambrose Light, I washed down the boat and stowed the mackerel in the rear fish box/bait well.

There were only two or three small boats in the area that Sonny decided to try. We slowed the boat and switched on the Si-Tex. For a few minutes, the paper was all but blank. Then we began to read what appeared to be the sides of a steep underwater wreck or mountain which we both knew did not exist in this area. "It can't be fish; the machine must have gotten wet." In any case, we would check out the situation. My jig and tube had gone only a few feet when they were stopped by the top of the mountain—a mountain of mackerel.

For the next hour, it was pure mayhem. Multiple hook-ups were standard; the single fish an exception. The boat echoed to the sounds of hundreds of bouncing fish and shouting, happy fishermen. A group of about ten party boats appeared as if by magic—the way gulls do, out of nowhere when you begin to clean your catch. They, too, dug into that mountain of mackerel. Then the action abruptly stopped. It picked up a few minutes later; but using the read-out of the Si-Tex as a guide, we were off the main body of fish. We waited a few minutes, and caught some whiting.

"One more blast like that, and we'll head in." We all agreed. We made a few calculations as to the rate of our drift and probable directions of the migrating fish. Sonny stopped the boat right in the middle of a bull's-eye, just above that same moving mountain of fish. The paper read a solid body of mackerel almost seventy feet thick! It was blitz time for another half hour. Then the impossible pace slackened and died. We caught a few more strays and a couple of whiting, then the area became infested with horned dogfish. It would take some time to take care of the fish and clean up the boat, so we headed back to Sheepshead Bay.

Anyone who has experienced good mackerel fishing knows there's not a whole lot to it. The fish can be caught in astounding numbers and a high degree of skill is not essential. That's why mackerel are the beginner's favorite. A strong back, weak mind and a minimal amount of fishing background will quickly fill a burlap to bursting. But then, there are days when fish are few and the schools are loose and scattered. Skill and preparation receive their just rewards. What I'm getting at is the ultimate mackerel rig, and what I jokingly refer to as the "state of the art." If you believe the dropper (either tube or bucktail) tied ahead of plug or metal jig-squid is effective, then you can see the potential in this rig. It is equally effective on the whiting, which can be caught by lowering the jig to the bottom. Go to a heavier jig and/or lighter line if you're having difficulty holding near the bottom. I find twenty pound test about perfect; but on a private boat you can drop to fifteen and rarely run into problems.

During the early part of the whiting run, this jig and tube rig will usually outfish the more standard bait fishing techniques. This is probably because, until mid to late December, the water temperature is still relatively high and the whiting are actively feeding on bait. As the water temperature drops into the forties and fish are sought in progressively deeper waters, bait strips are usually better producers.

Last year's fall mackerel season lasted about three weeks. It started sometime in mid-November and wound down during the early part of December. Look at the fishing news in LIF and, if possible, check out the party boats as they return to port. If last year's fall mackerel run repeats itself, then give it a try. It is likely to be the last of the truly "fast" fishing you're going to have this year. And if the mackerel don't show? Well, you can jig up a burlap full of whiting and I'm sure you'll agree—there are worse ways to spend a late fall day.

P.S. My daughter, Hadley Megan was born two weeks later. At 9 lbs. 5 oz., a definite keeper.

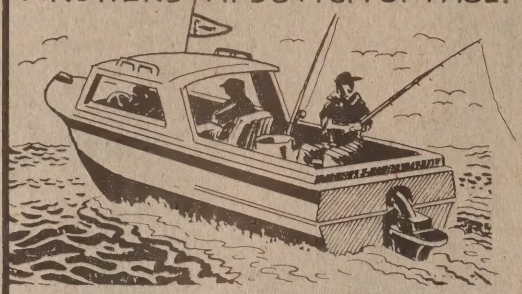
Norman lifts a couple of bostons on medium spin tackle. Two or three at a time is enough!

We fished for whiting to fill the lulls. Sonny prefers his side-winder to more modern equipment.

THE FISHERMAN QUIZ

1 AS A GENERAL RULE, HOW MANY TIMES THE LENGTH OF THE BOAT SHOULD A LINE BE TROLLED WHEN AFTER BLUEFISH?
5 X ☐ 10 X ☐ 20 X ☐

ANSWERS AT BOTTOM OF PAGE.



2 THESE THREE POPULAR FRESHWATER FISH, PRIZED AS GAMEFISH AND FOOD, ARE ALL MEMBERS OF THE TROUT FAMILY. TRUE ☐ FALSE ☐

BROOKIE

BROWNIE

RAINBOW

3 AMERICA'S OLDEST WILD ANIMAL, AROUND FOR 70 MILLION YEARS, CAN SPRINT, DIG, SWIM, CLIMB AND IS OUT MOSTLY AT NIGHT. IT IS A _____.

BY FRED GUARDINEER

4 BLACKFISH KEPT IN A HOME AQUARIUM EAT ANYTHING THAT FITS THEIR SMALL MOUTHS, BUT WILL GET FUNGUS IF THE TEMPERATURE EXCEEDS 55° F ☐ 65° F ☐ 75° F ☐

5 WHY WON'T THE JAPANESE FISHING BOATS BUY NET-MARKED TUNA FROM U.S. SPORT-FISHERMEN?

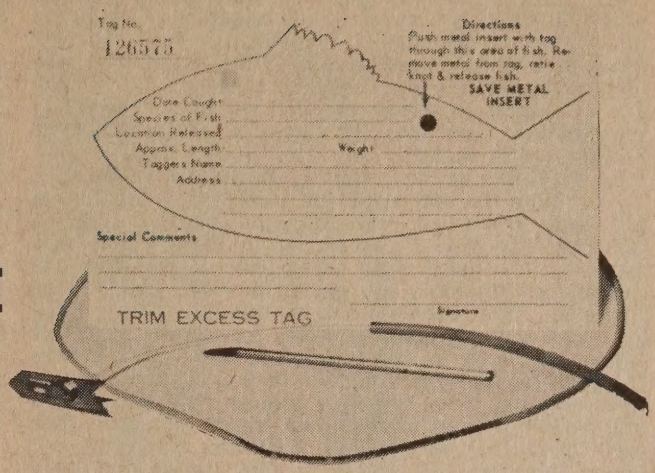
6 HOW BIG A PIECE OF SANDWORM SHOULD I PUT ON MY HOOK WHEN SURFCASTING? A READER ASKS.

1 - 5 TIMES. 2 - FALSE. BROOK TROUT BELONG TO THE CHAR FAMILY. RAINBOWS AND BROWNS BELONG TO THE SALMON FAMILY. 3 - POSSUM. 4 - 75 DEGREES F. 5 - THEY CLAIM IT SPOILS THE MEAT. 6 - IF THE WORMS ARE BIG USE A WHOLE ONE, IF SMALL USE TWO OR THREE. SKIMPY BAITS PRODUCE SMALL FISH OR NONE AT ALL.

TAGGING STUDIES:

Communication Between Scientist and Sportsman

by Bruce Stutz



The clarity of the New York City skyline in autumn is always a welcome sight; and this first day of the new season, there were about twenty of us gathered taking in the depth of the view from the beach at Sandy Hook, New Jersey. Daybreak showed us as leaning silhouettes along the beach, surf rods cocked on hips; or gathered in small groups, while the long rods spiked in the sand dipped with the incoming tide.

The waters were pretty rough and tumble, and the black stretch of open water to the southeast spat up whitecaps and blew foam into shore; but the storm from the day before had ended and the sky was unreeling ribbons of red as the sun rose from the waters.

Until this morning, it had been an awful day and night: no fish, foul weather, sheltered but somewhat sodden accommodations at the headquarters of the National Marine Fisheries Service on Sandy Hook. Yet the lack of success in the fishing was not so much disappointing as it was frustrating, since none of us had any intentions of leaving with our catches; rather, we intended to tag whatever was caught and release it.

The waters we were fishing, fed by rivers which pass the city now so impressive a silhouette in the distance, have proven difficult to manage and tagging the fish from these waters was to be our contribution to the conservation of this Bight's well-being.

The winds would have none of it. After a couple more hours casting against the hard surf, we called it a morning, and returned to the headquarters of the American Littoral Society housed in the Sandy Hook Marine Fisheries Laboratories. Some hot coffee, a few fish stores swapped, and an opportunity for me to speak with Dery Bennett, who organized this ill-fated first annual tagging event in his capacity as Director of the Littoral Society. The subject of tagging is close to his—and to the Society's—heart.

"It is, as far as I know," Bennett began, "the only tagging program for the amateur sportsman in the country. Admittedly, while it's not carried out with the same intensity as tagging studies run by State or Federal Programs, we find it is a great opportunity for those interested in the conservation of marine life to learn and participate in a worthwhile program."

Bennett, in fact, is being modest about the importance of the Society's work. The files of the American Littoral Society have proved their worth far beyond casual observations by interested amateurs. Every marine biologist interviewed spoke only with enthusiasm for the tagging done by fishermen under the auspices of the American Littoral Society.

Since the tagging program began in 1965, the Society has distributed over 140,000 tags among 5,000 members and tagged over eighty different species of fish. Every fish ever tagged and released by any Society member over the past fourteen years has a card on file at the Society's headquarters on which its weight and length and location caught is recorded. At least three per cent of those fish have been recaptured—some a thousand miles from where they were first tagged.

Bruce Freeman of the National Marine Fisheries Service at Gloucester, Massachusetts has used the Society's data in studies of both bluefish and striped bass. Herb Austin of the Virginia Institute of Marine Science estimates the Society has tagged 88,000 striped bass, "more than anyone else, and possibly more than everyone else combined." Add to this, the seven to eight per cent return on tagged stripers and what you end up with is, Austin adds, "much more than just an exercise."

In a recent study conducted for the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, Austin found that of all striped bass tagging studies in nine states from North Carolina to Maine, the longest continuous tagging program has been that of the American Littoral Society.

Bruce Freeman, writing on the coastal movements of striped bass, makes this observation: "Effective management of our fishery resources is based upon making and carrying out wise decisions... For each species, we need to identify genetic variations, geographical distribution, migratory routes, relative abundance, rate of growth, spawning seasons and area, food, behavioral habits, and other features of its natural history and environmental requirements. The ideal...is to make observations and take samples simultaneously and frequently over large geographic areas and for long periods of time...Scientists can better approach the ideal in tracing the migratory routes, as well as determining the relative abundance of the various species of fishes by using information available from tagging programs carried on by conscientious anglers.." (From 'Notes on Striped Bass Migrations' in **Underwater Naturalist, Bulletin of the American Littoral Society.**)

Dave Deuel, a biologist in charge of statistics for the National Marine Fisheries Service in Washington states the case for tagging quite succinctly. "In terms of fisheries management, setting size and bag limits and open seasons, tagging is indispensable." By this, it might well be implied that the fisherman who tags some of his catch is adding to the knowledge needed to perpetuate the conditions which will enhance his sport.

"In the early Sixties," Deuel says, "we knew almost nothing about the bluefish and what we did know was only by actual observation: the larger fish were found in one place, the smaller fish in another; we knew when they arrived and when they left. But this was all

(Continued on next page.)

we knew before we began to tag."

Between 1962 and 1970, working out of the Sandy Hook Labs, Deuel and his team tagged 15,000 bluefish. The first result of that study was to establish the range of the East Coast bluefish population and for the first time to establish empirically that that population was distinct from the Gulf of Mexico population.

"Tagging programs give you the largest payoff in the first few years. Once the data is in, you can begin to design further studies."

But Deuel warns of drawing conclusions too quickly. "Had a fish we tagged off New Jersey been found off Texas in the Gulf of Mexico, the conclusion that all bluefish from New Jersey end up in Texas would be a mistake. The more likely explanation is that this one particular fish took a wrong turn at Key West. Things more odd have been known to happen."

Like a fish tagged, released, and caught again the same day. Like a fish caught a year after it was tagged—by the same fisherman fishing the same wreck. Like the man who tagged a striped bass which he'd tagged three years earlier, then tagged a second bass with the old tag off the first. That bass turned up two years later, tag still legible. In fact, talking with Dery Bennett and the other fishermen that bright, but cold morning, it turned out that trading stories of the fish tagged and released was about as good as trading stories of the ones that just got away.

"Finding out that the fish you tagged was caught and the tag returned," Bennett says, "makes up a little for the slight regret at letting go a hard-won catch."

Looking through the files of the Littoral Society gives an immediate glimpse into the lives of both the fishermen and their catches. A stack of file cards shows one fisherman got into a lot of bluefish Saturday, found weaks on Sunday, and caught a striper on Monday. A twenty-two inch bluefish tagged in September on Nantucket was recaptured while wintering off False Cape, Virginia. A small blue tagged in October off Long Island was caught again in March in Pamblico Sound, North Carolina. A shark tagged off Fire Island, New York is recaptured off Nova Scotia.

Whether power plants are a harm to fish or not, may still be as yet unknown; but at least one striper, tagged at the Northport, Long Island power plant discharge canal in January, 1973, got along well enough to remain in the area until being recaptured at Old Lyme, Connecticut nearly four years later.

Yet a few pitfalls of the amateur tagger also become apparent: a smallmouth bass tagged in 1975 is caught three years later, and is now called a largemouth bass.

For the scientist, the problems are certainly not in identifying the species tagged. Their concerns are with tagging enough fish to make their data worthwhile. With only a three to seven per cent return on tagged fish being the average for even the most careful studies, the more fish tagged, the more information follows. It is in this numbers game that the sportsman makes his contribution.

"In terms of cost per fish tagged," explains Dave Deuel, "the sportsman who's out there tagging can't be replaced by any private or government study."

As for the seemingly low percentage of return on tagged fish, Byron Young of the New York State Marine Fisheries listed, the most likely causes as predation, natural mortality, the shedding of the tag, and the tagged fish simply remaining uncaught. This last presents a "catch-22" situation, in that if the lesser catch indicates a change in the pattern of migration, it is a theory unprovable without catches being made. Striped bass have borne out the possibilitites of this kind of problem: caught in fewer numbers than ever before, they then defy effective study.

The tag itself is one more concern. "There is no perfect tag," Young explains, "and all tags can't be used on all fish. While the jaw tag is perhaps the cleanest, it can as well be the most harmful to feeding. Every tag has its drawbacks and advantages."

Young found while tagging small striped bass in the Hudson River in New York that the tagged fish began coming up to the surface with half their bodies gone. What he realized was that the flashing tag on these small fish attracted schools of snapper blues. The tagging was stopped and continued when the bluefish had moved out of the waters.

Dave Deuel has found that the tags on bluefish caught in southern waters show signs of abrasion they don't show in northern waters. He speculates that in these warmer waters, the higher rate of activity by the fish makes them more aware of the tag and that they may be rubbing up against rocks and pilings in an effort to rid themselves of it.

The coloration of the tag is also a consideration since a bright tag might act in the same way as a colored feather or spinner on a lure, and attract predators. The American Littoral Society at one time tried switching from their yellow tag to a darker green tag for bluefish, but found no significant increase in the number of fish returned.

The development of a more perfect tag is a full-time project in itself. In Herb Austin's study of striped bass tagging programs on the East Coast, at least a half dozen different tags were used—some programs using three and four different methods of tagging the fish; some using one kind of tag on the smaller fish and another tag on the larger fish. And none of these tags are the same tags used for sharks or billfish, or in tagging programs for lobsters and shrimp.

Floy Tag and Manufacturing, Inc., of Seattle, Washington, is one of the world's largest producers of fish tags. The tags have become a large portion of the stock in trade of a company that began in the business of developing and marketing plastics for saltwater environments. Russ Emick, a spokesman for the company describes their tag business as one that grew as biologists began increasingly to rely on tagging for marine studies.

"A biologist will come to us with a study in mind and we'll work with him on developing the tag he needs. We've worked a great deal with the National Marine Fisheries Service and the American Littoral Society. Tagging is a growing area for both scientists and commercial fishermen, as well as for the sportsman."

Emick should know. His company has supplied tags to eighty different countries and to all of the United States and Canada, at one time or another. And he estimates that at any one time, some two thousand tagging projects are under way worldwide. The tags used in these studies range from a simple clip of a fin, to internal sonar tags used to follow the movements of a single fish—usually around a dam or spawning ladder.

A problem inherent in the vast number of studies conducted is one of collecting and collating the information gathered. A scientist interested in data on a particular fish has to gird himself for a long search through much published and unpublished material. But as Herb Austin puts it, there has developed what amounts to a "scientific underground" of those who conduct tagging studies and therein lies hordes of information waiting to be culled.

The fisherman willing to let go a few of his hard-earned catches can add to this store of information by tagging a few of the fish caught. As of now, the only program for the angler is run by the American Littoral Society. A paid membership and a $3.50 fee gets a kit containing ten tags with corresponding return cards.

The Littoral Society tag is perhaps the simplest of all to use on most species and a shark tagging kit is available.

Members of the Society tag worldwide and tags have been tied to over eighty species of fish ranging from stripers and blues to tarpon, snook, flounder and fluke.

Membership in the American Littoral Society costs $15 and the cost of tagging kits to members is tax-deductible. The **Underwater Naturalist**, the Society's bulletin, is mailed to members as part of their annual dues. Students pay only $10, and club memberships are $20. Interested anglers and those interested in

ONE. To tag fish one end of tag is inserted into needle and needle is then pushed through fish's back above bone and behind dorsal fin.

TWO. Out the other side, needle pulls tag until equal length of tag extends from either side of fish.

THREE. Needle is then pulled off tag and double overhand knot is tied in tag so that the tag hangs loosely from fish.

FOUR. Ends of tag are trimmed and fished is released after measurements or length, weight and girth are made. If handled carefully, fish should survice.

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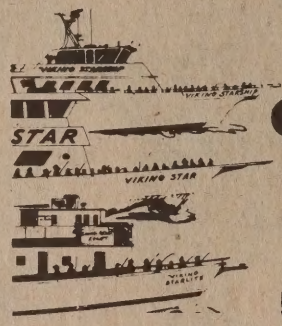

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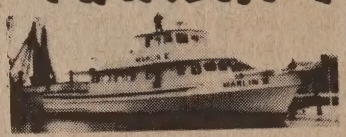

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MONTAUK
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STRIPED BASS

Captain Mike on the charter boat **Montauk** reported that the diamond jigging for striped bass was excellent on Monday and Tuesday but it slowed down to a crawl by the weekend. Monday's score was 28 bass, 15-36 lbs., plus a few weaks, bluefish and bonito. On Tuesday, 13 bass to 47 lbs. were taken. Captain Mike said that now that the water is rapidly cooling, he will start blackfishing at Cartwright Grounds and Block Island for those real bulldogs that are so overlooked.

Captain Freddie Bird of the open boat **Flying Cloud** said that both his boat and Captain Dusty's **Little Bear** have been massacreing the porgies at Block Island. All the fish are of jumbo size and there are blackfish, bluefish, cod and small pollack mixed in the catches. On Saturday, Phil Westbrook was high hook with 250 fish, just nosing out "Irving of Brooklyn" who had well over 200. Freddie said that he will continue porgy fishing until the action dies.

Captain Paul Forsberg of the **Viking Fishing Fleet** also reported absolutely phenomenal porgy fishing under the southeast light at Block Island. Anglers are taking 2-3 burlap bags of jumbo porgies on each trip, but the action probably won't last much longer. Codfishing has been fair on the Block Island wrecks, but there are some big blackfish being taken. On Sunday, regular Frank B.

Billy Cronin and friends with some bass in the 20-30 lb. class; 7-9 lb. weakfish, and a mess of blues landed on Garry Kieffer's charterboat, "Barracuda."

Part of a catch of 47 stripers up to 45 lbs. landed by fares aboard the Montauk open boat "Viking Skipper II." Diamond jigs accounted for most of the fish.

took the pool with a 36 lb. cod. Striped bass fishing was good all week diamond jigging for fish up to 35 lbs., but the action slowed down considerably on the weekend due to the heavy boat traffic and strong winds.

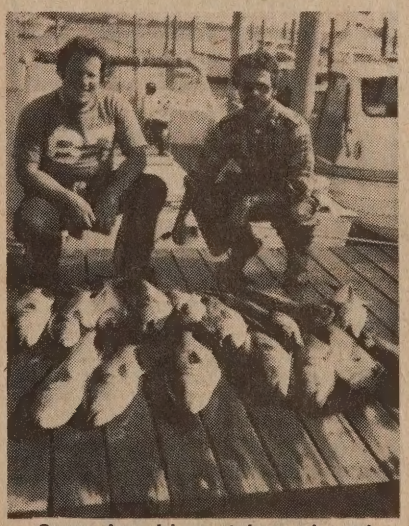
Captain Richard Rade of the **Marlin Fleet** reported that the porgy fishing on Sunday can only be described as fantastic, with anglers aboard taking between 200 and 300 porgies each. All the fish are jumbos and there are a few sea bass, cod, and bluefish mixed in the catches taken off Block Island. Bluefishing is still very good at Cartwright and the boat has been stopping in the Rips off Montauk to pick up a few bonus striped bass everyday.

Captain John DeMaio of the charter boat **Vivienne** reported that the striped bass fishing was excellent last week, although it did taper off for the weekend. Scores for the week were: Monday afternoon - 12 bass to 30 lbs.; Tuesday morning - 13 bass, afternoon - 17 up to 30 lbs.; Wednesday's action dropped off to four bass each trip. But it picked up again on Thursday with 11 bass to 40 lbs. in the morning and 11 bass to 46 lbs. in the afternoon. John said that there is still a lot of bass around and as long as the weather holds, there should still be some good bass action in front of us.

Captain Buddy Dorman of the **Viking Skipper II** reported that the striped bass fishing last week seemed to pattern itself with the weather. Best action was on Monday when 21 anglers hauled in 47 king-size bass to 35 lbs. Largest bass for the week was a 45 lber. Saturday and Sunday's lumpy seas held the fishing down, but late on Sunday afternoon when the seas finally diminished, several 20-30 lb. class bass were caught. Bud said that anglers have caught bass everyday and the boat hasn't been shut out yet.

Captain Ron Grandinetti of the charter boat **Julie III** with party led by George Dye had 7 flounder, and 2 blacks at Culloden Point just to warm up for the 67 blues they caught from 6-12 lbers., along with 3 stripers up to 21 lbs., all at the Sub Buoy on Sunday.

Captain Phil Lewis of the charter boat **Adios** reported that the bass fishing was very good this week. Friday, Stan Rand hoisted in a 45 lb. striper. Chet Walker and buddies from Southampton Police Department on Saturday boated a 37½ lb. striper, plus several others, all high teen sized fish. Phil says that the week of November 12 he has several open days including the weekend.



Some big blues taken aboard Bruce Fradl's Nancy B at Montauk. Photo courtesy of Gone Fishing Marina.

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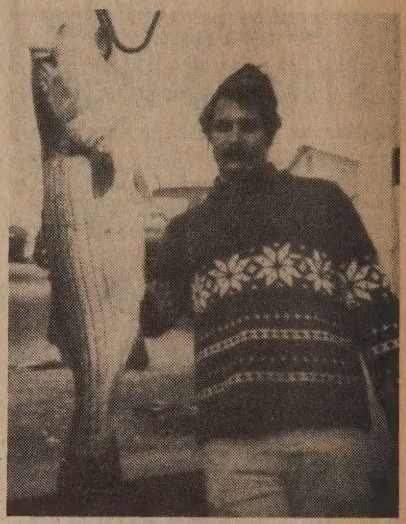
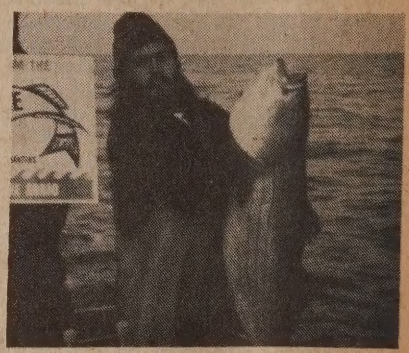


Stan Rand stands alongside the 45 lb. striper that he landed recently aboard the Montauk charterboat "Adios."



Paul Lapinsky hefts a 40 lb. striper, the largest of 11 he and his friends Pete and Stretch took diamond jigging aboard the "Vivienne."

LIF publisher Rich Reina displays 2 stripers in the 25-30 lb. class taken on Ava jigs aboard The Fisherman's Sisu 22.

SOUTH FORK
★ BEST BET ★
FLOUNDER

SAG HARBOR

Captain Artie on the **Wilhelric** reports that the blackfishning remains excellent on all trips, with the pool fish continuing to averae 9-10 lbs. The boat is working Little and Big Gull Islands and Plum Island. Fish are being caught mainly on green crab and bait is available on the boat.

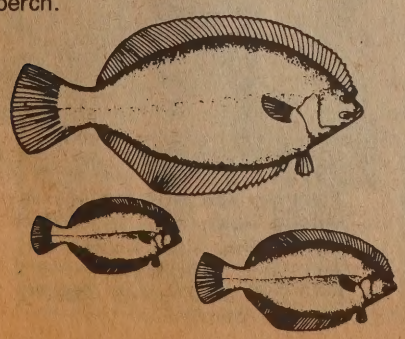
SHINNECOCK

The Captain Clark Fleet tells of loads of big blackfish being caught on their ocean wrecks during the first four days of this past week. Plenty of jumbo porgies mixed in with some good sized sea bass also caught. Fares are decking between 400-500 fish per day. Catches fell off on the weekend due to poor weather conditions and strong moon tides. Captain Clark wishes to advise his customers that November 15 will be his last sailing date until spring.

Thom at **Speck's Bait and Tackle** reported that the flounder fishing in both Shinnecock and Peconic Bays has been fair. Fish are mixed in size and being taken on worms and clams.

MORICHES BAY

Chet at **B&B Tackle** informs us that Bob Gustafson on his boat Intruder, trolling between the Inlet and the C Buoy in 50' of water dragging an umbrella rig on 300' of wire, hooked and landed a 55 lb. bluefin tuna on Thursday after a 30 minute battle. Worms are accounting for good catches of tommycod in the Bay. Blues are being taken by surf casters and trollers close in to the beach. Small but fat flounders are being caught in Forge River and buoys 42 through 44 on worms and mussel chum. Forge River is also producing good catches of white perch.



GREAT SOUTH BAY
★ BEST BET ★
BLACKFISH

BAY SHORE

Captain Neil Delanoy of the open boat **Casey Lee** reported that the flounder fishing has been steadily improving at Gilgo and that fish have been starting to show off Babylon. Neil also said that the boat will be sailing for flounder on Veteran's Day, Monday, November 12.

CAPTREE

Captain Neal Delanoy of the charter boat **Lady Ann** said that they have been making some good catches of blackfish and porgies on the Fire Island Ocean Reef. Green crabs are taking blacks 2-6 lbs., while the clams are taking jumbo porgies of 1-2½ lbs.

Captain George Tweedy of the **Captain Scotty** says that bluefishing remains unbelievably fantastic at the Patchogue Outer Banks, fish ranging from 6-20 lbs., all on jigs. Individual catches for some anglers run from 30-60 ferocious bluefish a man. Fishing couldn't be better says George. Some customers are bailing up to 900 lbs. of blues a trip, a lot of work and a lot of fun. A few bonito from 8-20 lbs. are also being caught as are some tuna up to 70 lbs. with horses being frequently lost. Some tuna being caught are ranging from 100-150 lbs. This has got to be the ultimate in party boat fishing. Fishing could not possibly be better repeated the captain who says he will continue sailing blues Saturday, Sundays and holidays. See ad for details.

The open boat **Capt. Rod** said that flounder fishing on Saturday was very, very slow. Rod worked over the Heckscher Park grounds and then on Sunday, worked back west to Babylon. Eighty fair sized flatties were taken here on clams and worms. The pool winner looked to be about 2 lbs. Despite the very slow start, Rod was encouraged that Sunday's improved fishing was a harbinger of things to come.

BABYLON

Ski at **Augie's Bait and Tackle** tells us that on Sunday Al and Rudy Hanfner had 22 keeper flounder weighing between ⅓14 and 1½ lbs., fish taken off the old Airplane Hanger, which is the area between the pool and Bergen Point. There were a lot of good catches there

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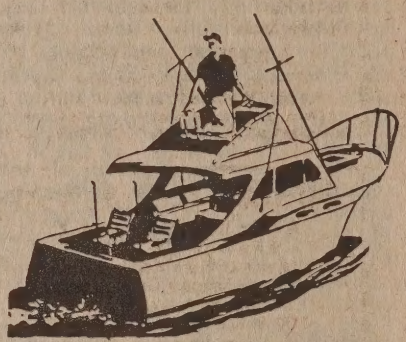

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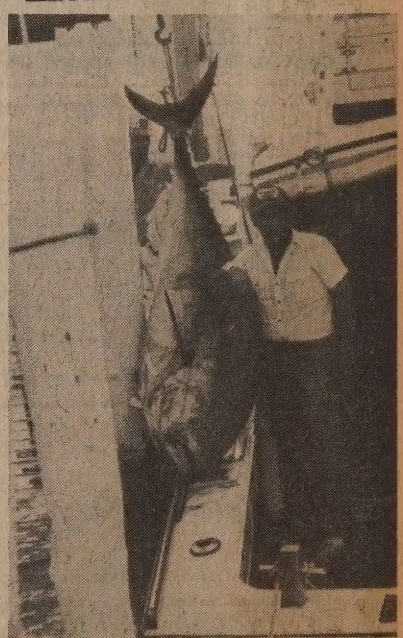
Sunday. Many better sized flatties are showing up now, being caught on bloodworms and either mussel chum or clam chum. A few blacks still being caught at the Kismet Reef, the bridge abutments and jetty stones. Excellent bluefish catches being made in 40-55' of water from the lighthouse on west of mixed sizes. One customer brought in 4 blues going over 13 lbs. each. Fish are hitting tubes and umbrella rigs. Blues are also at times showing a preference for plain, unadorned diamond jigs without tubes. Six striped bass were brought in on Sunday also for weighing and ran from 6½ to 32 lbs. These were all boat fish taken along the beach from Ocean Beach to Gilgo on trolled bunker spoons. So, there are definitely some bass now around. A few stripers have been caught by surf casters also using eels, bunker or mackerel strips.

EAST ISLIP

Wally at **Buoy II Sport Shop** reported Rocky Varrone and Ray Vasquez once again ran out of Fire Island Inlet and returned with a nice mess of blues up to 14¾ lbs. and some sea bass up to 3½ lbs. Both men are members of the Oakdale Sportsmen's Club.



Tony Cortese with his 505 lb. bluefin tuna taken in 160' of water, 120° S.E. of Montauk. The catch was made aboard Pete Stassi's W. Islip moored, Sea Venture.

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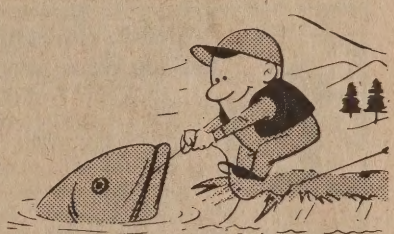

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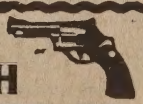
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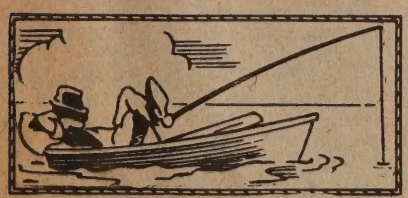

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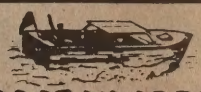

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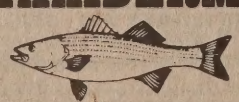

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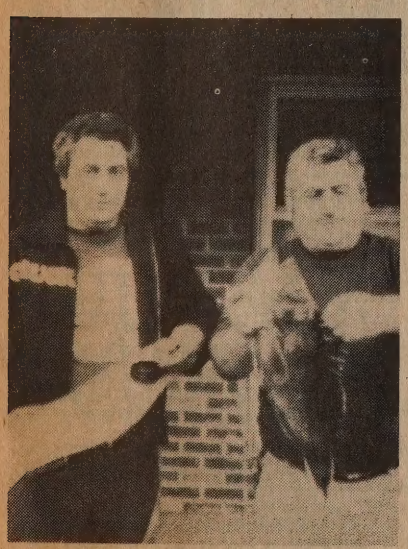
FLOUNDER

MERRICK

Jimmy at **Nick's Fishing Station** reports plenty of flounders though most are small. Some keepers however. Best areas have been Merrick Point and Rowboat Alley on blood worms. As for bass, Dennis Newman of Bellmore had a couple of fish in the 40s. Buddy Holmes of Merrick weighed in a 34½ lber Sunday. This was all on live bunker. Quite a few bluefish in and around the inlet from 4-15 lbs. on umbrellas. Some blackfish at the bridges on fiddler and green crab.

SEAFORD

John at **Pop's Fishing Station** tells us flounder have been improving in size and that the ratio of keepers is now around 50%. Big fish of the week was a 2 lb. 2 oz. flattie taken by Joe Mecke of Brooklyn. Crabbing is still fair, with fewer individuals but all good size. All of the Station's skiffs are returning with flounder, being taken on worms and red-dyed clam helped along with corn or mussel chum. Best areas have been the drain south of Four Corners, the area west of the second bridge, the area between the 2nd bridge and Egg Island and Black Banks on both tides. Blackfishing remains good at the 3rd Wantagh with fish averaging 10-12" on fiddlers, green crab or clam.



Charlie Petrone, left, with an 8½ lb. weak and Dom Petrone with a husky 4½ lb. sea bass. They were taken off of Jersey, along with 19 blues up to 7 lbs. Subscriber photo.

Lon Wanser Bait and Tackle reports loads of small fat flounder taken all over the bay on blood worms assisted by clam or mussel chum. Lots of blue claw crabs remaining, so Lon advised bring a trap when you're after flounder.

BELLMORE

Scott at **Merrick Tackle** tells us about the tuna catches being made in the aRea of the Mud Hole and the HA buoy, fish running from 40-300 lbs. on ling and whiting baits. Blues being trolled and jigged at Cholera, mixed sizes up to 15 lbs. Blues have been caught this past week in Jones Inlet from the beach and from boats. Blues hitting tins from the beaches and are being trolled on single tubes and umbrellas. Bass being caught at Cedar and Cedar Overlook on yellow and white super strike darters. These are schoolies, mainly 8-10 lbers, and they are hitting at dusk and dawn.

BALDWIN

Eddie at **Arthur Street Fishing Station** reports that Dennis Detweiller boated 35 blues on bait Sunday fishing Cholera. Fish ran up to 16 lbs. Bill Albrecht had a good catch of flounder Sunday in Scow Creek fish running up to 2 lbs. This week's productive area has been Middle Ba and Baldwin Bay including Scow Creek on worms and clams. On Sunday, a mystery bass hound weighed in 2 bass, one of them hitting the scale at 44 lbs. Other details are lacking.

WEST END SOUTH SHORE
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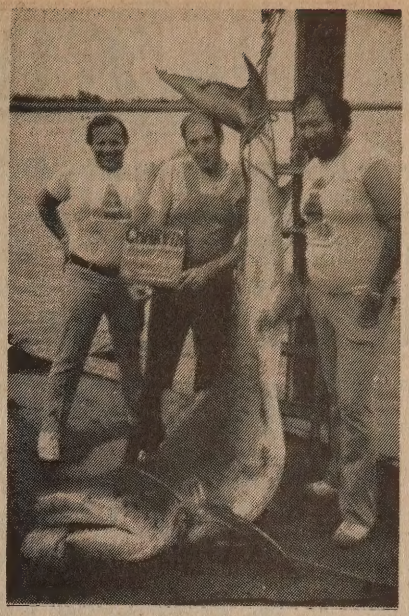
FLOUNDER

FREEPORT

The Captain Al says that the Cholera bluefishing is now consisten and the fish are now of the best sizes so far of the year. Al says there'll be a flurry and a pick, and a flurry and a pick and so it goes all day long. Action is constant and fish are running up to 15 lbs. It's no big trick to bag up an even dozen of these monsters. Al says to come on down now because the fish will be gone in a few weeks. Please note that this Saturday and Sunday, the Captain Al will be sailing at 5AM for a special cod trips to his cow country super wrecks. It's advised that you get to the boat early.



The crew from the Rough Rider and the 475 lb. shark they landed south of Jones Inlet. Photo courtesy of Charvin Fishing Station.

The Starstream II starting Saturday will be fishing bottom for blacks and sea bass, sailing 6:30 a.m.

Mark's Bait and Tackle tells us that the Baldwin/Freeport waters produced the best flounder fishing this past weekend. Fish were fat if not huge with Scow Creek and the Fundy area producing best catches.

Captain Joe Long's charter boat **Nite Owl** on Saturday fished Vic Lanzon and party and in Merrick Bay they hoisted roughly 100 keeper flounder on clam and worm baits in the pouring rain, working both tides.

Captain Sy Karlin of the **Blue Fin II** asked us to announce that he will be running as an open boat for cod December 1, 8 and 16. There will be limited capacity, so reservations are required in advance.

Captain Dan of the charter boat **Nan Sea** fished Tom Devlin, Tom Hoagerty and Pete Tuzzoli of Whitestone Sunday and they bagged 15 blues up to 13¼ lbs. working in 50' of water off the beach from Lido to the J2 buoy. Larger fish hit small bunker spoons and smaller fish were taken on umbrellas.

Ronnie Feuring at **Sea Isle Sports** tells us of the bluefin tuna that have been caught at the Mud Hole this past week on whiting and ling baits.

Lou Stalker of **Charvin Fishing Station** had a 100 lber. On Sunday only 3 were taken due to extremely heavy boat traffic. The fish are being attracted to the area due to the abundance of whiting being returned to the water by the draggers. Lots of flounder caught in Swift Creek and Middle Bay at the golf course. Fish are fat but no big sizes to speak of. Blues were taken

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FREEPORT'S LARGEST, FASTEST MOST MODERN ALL STEEL PARTY BOAT WITH 36 YEARS EXPERIENCE AT THE HELM!!!

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Special Cow Country Cod Wreck Trips—
5AM SAT. & SUN.

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CAPT. BILL LINDROTH'S NEW 65 FT.

CAPT. BILL

Half-Day FLOUNDER SPECIALISTS!!!

"One tide is enough...if you know where to fish!"

ALL TICKETS SOLD OCT. 27!

SAILING 8AM & 1:30PM

$8.00 *Adults* — $5.00 *Children & Sr. Cit.*

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FLOUNDER 7:30 A.M. DAILY

FREE BAIT • SR. CIT. RATE WEEKDAYS

"WE KNOW THE HOTSPOTS IN THE BAY, BECAUSE WE FISH THEM EVERY DAY!"

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½ DAY BOAT—SAILS TWICE DAILY

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BIG 65' WHITING SOON!!!

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10 A.M. FLOUNDERS DAILY

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POINT LOOKOUT

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MARIE III

1—34 Pass. Charter Boat • Heated Cabin

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FAST—NEW 60' SUPERCRUISER!

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Fast 35 ft. Fiberglass Diesel Charterboat

SIX PASS. **IVORY QUEEN** SIX PASS.

FLOUNDER • MACKEREL • FLUKE

SHARK • TUNA • BLUEFISH

All Elect. • Free Tackle • Bay/Ocean, Day/Night

Capt. Bill (212) LA-8-4146 Capt. Joe (516) 826-9740

Dave Goldberg, Irv Dobbs and Stu Eichner with a nice catch of jumbo blues made on Lupo Spoons aboard the charterboat, "Kim."

during the week and weekend from the Inlet to the CG Station along with some stripers. Greg, Ronnie's Reel Repair sharpshooter, had one 7 lb. striper and 20, 4-5 lb. blues, all on umbrellas. The west end of the inlet was being patrolled by 12-15 lb. blues and larger bass which tended to move east with the flood tide.

POINT LOOKOUT

Captain Dennis of the **Marie III** called and asked us to tell you that on Sunday, November 9 the boat will be running open for flounder, sailing at 8AM with a 25-man limit. See ad for details and phone number.

The word from **Ed's Fishing Station** was that plenty of flounder were taken Sunday. Some of the better spots were buoys 16-18, Swift Creek and the local flats. Blackfishing continues very good at the bridges, although the fish are small. Because of their size, fiddlers have been more effective than green crabs, which usually attract the bigger blacks. Some good action with 3-6 lb. bluefish in the Inlet on umbrellas and bunker chunks. The last two hours of the ebb produced best for the choppers. Going back to last Wednesday, Ed Sutter swam a small blackfish from one of the station's rental skiffs and connected with a 16 lb. chopper.

ATLANTIC BEACH

Captain Ronnie Lepper of the charter boat **Kim** called to tell us that a fall bass run appears to have taken hold along the South Shore with boats getting from 2-3 stripers each, fish running anywhere from 12-50 lbs. Several 50s taken this week. Rockaway produced a 56 lber. on Saturday. Sunday produced a 50 lber at Romer Shoals. Several 30s taken Sunday at Ambrose Channel and off the Highlands. Fish are taking umbrellas or bunker spoons. There are also tons of blues all over the place, says Ronnie.

ISLAND PARK

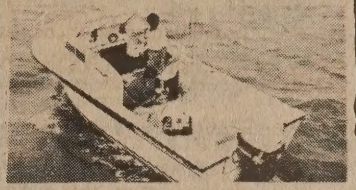
The **Commodore** reports very good flounder catches Saturday and Sunday. Lot of action but that included a lot of midgets that had to be returned to the water. Clem says there are several larger fish per man being boated now and keepers are averaging 25-30 per man. Fish are averaging 1/2 to 1 lb. (keeper size) and most action is in Reynolds Channel. Fishing should hold up with the good weather. Larger fish are in the shallows.

Charlie at **Beckman's Tackle Shop** reported that the flounder and blackfishing is still holding up. Action on both fish has been pretty consistent, although many of the blackfish being taken are on the small side. A good showing of big stripers along the beach from the Jones Beach tower west to Lido. The fish are being taken on Lupo Baby Bunker Spoons and trolled plugs.

ROCKAWAYS

Skippy's Bait and Tackle reports good numbers of tuna being taken at the Mud Hole. These are all big fish which are looking for the whiting that are being returned to the water by the draggers. These fish are running up to 800 lbers. The fish that are being hooked and caught are the smaller ones ranging up to 200 lbs. (small). Flounder fishing this past week has been so-so due to the strong moon tides and muddied up water. Best area this past week has been the cement block near the high school. Good blackfishing at the Atlantic Beach Bridge and the Atlantic Beach jetties and the Silver Point jetty. The stone barge is also producing blackfish. Whiting and ling can be caught at the Mud Hole. Blues at Cholera on bait and on jigs and small bass have been hitting spoons off Tobay.

JOIN THE WINNERS!
EDDIE'S MARINE & GRADY-WHITE



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than any other GW boat—Could it be the
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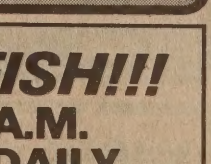

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FISHING PLUM ISLAND, THE GUT, BIG & LITTLE GULL IS.!
FIRST TO THE FISHING GROUNDS!
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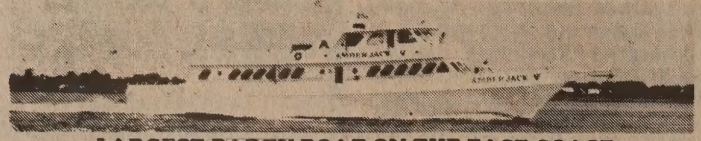

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"BABE"

Capt. Stan Kreisler
Capt. Ken Kreisler
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After 7 P.M.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY • PIER 7

PILOT II

★6 AM DAILY★

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SHEEPSHEAD BAY • PIER 1

ZEPHYR

BLACKS & SEABASS

FULL GALLEY • TACKLE & BAIT ON BOARD

7 AM SAT., SUN. & HOL.

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100' Alum. Boat • Galley • Heated Rails & Cabin

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Big 85' • Latest Elec. • Helpful Crew

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Heated Cabins •

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—3 Generations of Fishing Experience!—

SHEEPSHEAD BAY'S NEW 100 FT.

AVENGER

6AM • BLUES • 7PM

Color TV • Air Cond.

Ladies Accom. • Bait & Tackle

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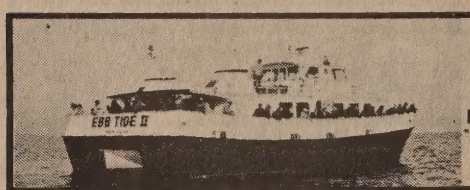
(212) 258-7070 PIER 7, Sheepshead Bay

★CITY ISLAND★



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BLACKFISH SPECIAL!

—DAILY 7:30 AM—

From City Island

65' Open Boat • Complete Electronics

★RESTAURANT★

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NEW ROCHELLE

★BLACKFISH★ Klondike VII

SAILS 8AM DAILY

The *Klondike VII* will no longer be sailing from its present location. We are now docked at the end of Fort Slocum Rd. off of Pelham Road, New Rochelle.

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NORTH SHORE

GLEN COVE

LADY LIL II

★BOTTOM FISHING★

★ 7:30 AM DAILY ★

(516) 261-7145 SR. CIT. RATE WKDYS.

Sails from Brewer's Marina (128 Shore Rd.)

Exit 39N on L.I.E. (Glen Cove Rd.) to end. Left turn & then right turn at 2nd lite onto Shore Rd.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

The **Atomic II** reported good action in the Mudhole, fishing for whiting and ling. The days catch consisted of mostly ling from 1 to 3 lbs. with some ½ to 3 lb. whiting mixed in. Catches up to 2 five gallon buckets of whiting and ling were taken on herring and red clam bait. The boat had only fair catches of ling on Saturday fishing off of Scotland.

The **Zephyr** told of very good blackfishing off of Seabright on Sunday. Fares were taking from ½ to better then 5 gallon pails of blacks up to 6 pounds on green crabs. Some hand sized porgies and some sea bass were also taken on green crabs. Fishing on Saturday was tough because of weather conditions.

The **Flamingo III** jigged super catches of blues during the week at the Klondike. Most fish ranged from 3 to 6 lbs. with a few slammers, 10-15 mixed in. On Saturday the boat enjoyed good fishing at the Tin Can Grounds, most fish in the 3 to 6 lb. range, a ew 10-15 pounders mixed in. Although no bass were taken aboard, some bass action was seen this weekend. On Sunday fishing was off with only fair catches taken.

Charlie at **Mike's Bait and Tackle** talks about the tuna being taken by open boat fishermen, going from 100-185 lbers. The Brooklyn had 8 tuna on Thursday and 8 on Friday on jigs and jigs dressed with feathers. Good bluefishing at Klondike, fish running 3-5 lbs. on A-27s, A-47s and 4 oz. Vikes. The Jersey rocks are producing good blacks on fiddlers and greenies. Small ling and some whiting at Scotland.

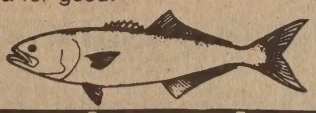
STATEN ISLAND

Lenny at **Santo's Sport Shop** reported that boatmen pick away at the stripers. Those fish that are being taken, however, are all cows. One private boat, the Rose-O, scored well with stripers from 20-44 lbs. on Bunker Spoons in the Romer Shoals and West Bank lighthouse area last week. Flounder up to 1 lb. being taken in Great Kills Harbor and blackfish up to 5 lbs. taking fiddlers at all their usual haunts.

PECONICS & GARDINERS
★ BEST BET ★
BLACKFISH

GREENPORT

Art White of **A.P. White Bait Shop** reported that blackfishing continued very good this past week at Plum and Little Gull Islands. Most of the tautogs are being taken on green crabs. Good fishing for flounder all around the Orient area and also near the Greenport jetty. A showing of stripers up to 40 lbs. on bucktails in the Gut this past week. The open boat **Brand X** has been doing a fine job on the blacks, according to Art who also mentioned that the blues seem to have left this area for good.



NORTH SHORE MID-ISLAND
★ BEST BET ★
MIXED BAG

ROCKY POINT

Stan at **Rocky Point Fishing Stop** had heard from some of his customers that they enjoyed some pretty good flounder fishing in Moriches Bay recently. Of the local flatfishing, Stan mentioned Mt. Sinai Harbor as producing quite a few fish although many are on the small side. Lots of small whiting being taken at Cedar Beach by worm fishermen. Blackfishing has been very good in the area. Casters should note that the best fishing from the beach has been from halfway up to high water along the beaches. Boatmen do well with 2-7 lb. blacks on the rocks covering the Shoreham outflow pipe. Fiddlers and greens have been taking these fish.

MT. SINAI HBR.

Ralph's Fishing Station reported lots of blues in the 2-5 lb. class being trolled on umbrellas and spoons. Blackfishing was described as fair and Ralph told of plenty of flounder in the harbor. Quite a few throwbacks but some nice flatties mixed in. Best baits have been clam or worms.

1979 WORLD RECORD GAME FISHES Whether tackling bluefish in the surf, casting for bass in your favorite stream, or battling giant marlin off the Great Barrier Reef, you'll want to take along "The Book" of recreational fishing. It's the angler's official guide to world fishing records and international angling rules for saltwater, freshwater, and saltwater fly fishing. But more than that, this 272-page, illustrated book is a guide to the fish you catch, their features, habits, and habitats. It tells you how to start a fishing club, the techniques of saltwater fly fishing, the value of teaching kids to fish. There's a history of angling, a guide to fishing knots and splices, tagging program summaries, and more. Contributors include Charlie Waterman, Hal Lyman, Mark Sosin, Peter Goadby, and Hans Jorgen Hurum.

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30' WOODEN LAPSTRAKE Boat, the kind they don't build anymore. Built like a tank. Ribs 6" on center. Full keel and Flybridge. Eight cylinder Palmer engine with only 400 hrs. Huge insulated fish box, tiller bar, dual batteries. Cabin sleeps 2. Large cockpit with two fighting chairs. Excellent seaworthy boat for sportfishing or commercial fishing; for lobsters, light dragging, pinhookers, etc. Call Scott at 516-668-9369. $4000.

19' ARISTOCRAFT HARDTOP, 120 OMC. Like new. 1978. All CG equip. $5695. EDDIE'S MARINE. 212-327-3088.

22' 1979 SISU Inboard, lobster canopy hardtop, 4 cyl. Volvo engine, FWC. Fully equipped for sportfishing, loaded with extras. Four flush mount rod holders, automatic Loran C, CB radio, compass. Cuddy cabin with ample storage space and one bunk. Dual battery system. Stern controls and tiller bar. In the water, ready to go. Will demonstrate. Call Ken at 516-728-8566.

17' BOSTON WHALER 1973 135 h.p. Johnson, Holsclaw trailer. New Gemtronics White Line Recorder; CB radio. Custom seat-fish box with cushion. $3600. 516-422-1032.

30' REPCO Fiberglas Jonesport hull boat with 6 cylinder original Palmer engine rebuilt last year. Completely outfitted for professional sportfishing. Hardtop, 2 fish boxes, compass, Sitex white line graph recorder, CB radio, digital depth recorder, rod racks, cabin with one bunk, etc. $15,000. Call John at 516-668-5130. In water, ready to go, will demonstrate.

1973 SEARAY 24' 225 OMC I/O, Outriggers, CB, VHF, Chart Recorder. Trim tabs, rod holders, new canvas. Full galley; enclosed head; V berths. SUPER CLEAN. Will demo. $8500. After 6PM. 516-728-8389.

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24' 1974 SEA RAY 188 h.p. Merc. I/O, Cuddy; head. Complete canvas; VHF radio; Coast Guard equipment. $6950. EDDIE'S MARINE, 212-327-3088.

BOSTON WHALER 17' Montauk 1977 Merc. 115 h.p. Holsclaw trailer. Fully equipped; ready to go. Custom console, windshield, canvas and fish box. Sonar recorder and flasher; C.G. approved. Absolutely perfect. $4000. 212-IL 9-7475.

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2-$245; 4-$332; 6-$480; 9.9-$630; 15-$714; 25-$860; 35-$960; 50-$1200; 55-$1365; 70-$1578; 85-$1760; 100-$1830; 115-$1890; 140-$1988; 150-$2516; 175-$2596; 200-$2696; 235-$2860. ELECTRA MARINE, 610 Merrick Rd., Lynbrook, NY. 11563. Scott & McCulloch parts. FOB/H. 516-599-3003. We ship anywhere.

1978 21' STARCRAFT MARINER Center Console with 1978 140 h.p. Evinrude. Also, a 1978 all roller Caulkins trailer and full cover. Used only one season. Easy to trailer and launch. Fast & light. Save $$ on gas. Excellent condition. Asking $5500. 201-838-2764 after 6PM.

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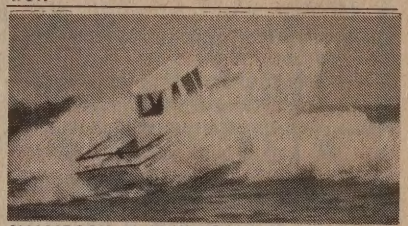

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Fishing Station with bar and restaurant. Business for sale. Mid $20s. Seaford Area. 212-VI 3-8218.

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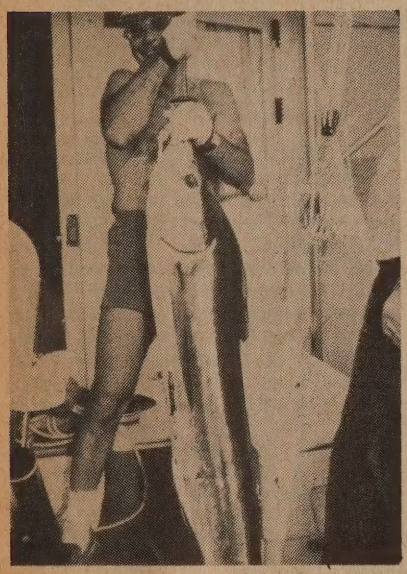


Ira Dragin boated this 55½ lb. white marlin on Marty Feuer's and Dr. Jerry Trussel's private boat, Marlena. The handsome billfish took a Green Machine.

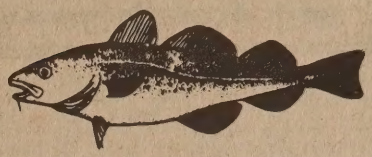
John Salzmann and Jane Corrigan heft monster blues weighing 21 and 23 lbs. The huge choppers were landed on the Montauk open boat, "Marlin V" and checked in at Skippy's Bait and Tackle.

"Moon" Mullins shows off his 7 lb. blackfish taken aboard the City Island party boat, "Ebb Tide II."

HUNTINGTON

From his **Four Winds Bait and Tackle Shop** George Valentine enthusiastically described what he called the best showing of school bass in this area, in at least five years. While Eaton's Neck, Buoy 13 has been the real hotspot, fish have also been taken at buoys 15 and 11B. Some very good scores have also been made by trollers working closely along the beach. White and black umbrella rigs, as well as diamond jigs are accounting for the best scores. Most of the bass are in the 4-8 lb. class, with an occasional larger fish mixed in, along with quite a few blues in the 3-5 lb. range. As for the blackfishing, George suggested using fiddlers or green crabs at Buoy 11B. George has checked in tautogs up to 7 lbs. this past week. Loads of flounder in the area, but the majority are throwbacks.

Ronnie Ferrara reported from his Huntington Shop that he, too, was aware of some super bass fishing going on at Eaton's Neck. He knew that some boats had 20-25 stripers apiece on Sunday. Ronnie said that the hot lure has been white or black umbrella rigs with one long green tube down the middle. Jiggers who know what they're doing, do a good job on the fish also. Ronnie also mentioned that there was some good blackfish action off of Makamah in recent days and he described the flounder as plentiful, but on the small side.



NORTH SHORE WEST END
★ BEST BET ★
BLACKFISH

KINGS PARK

Word from the **O.K. Bait Shop** was that there are quite a few flounder around but many must be returned to the water. Some nice fish are mixed in though. Over the weekend, Paul Libassi returned with 12 keepers up to 1½ lbs. These fish were taken on worms inside the river. The Bruno family also returned with a dozen flounder, in addition to a pail of tinker mackerel. Some blacks around, but this fishing can best be described as spotty.

CITY ISLAND

Jack's Bait and Tackle reported lots of blackfish on the local reefs in 18-20' of water. While most of the tautogs average around 3 lbs., some fish in the 8-9 lb. class have been weighed in. Both fiddlers and green crabs take these fish. Boatmen still doing a job on school stripers at Hart's and High Islands. These are all school fish and they are still being taken on small Rebels, bucktails or sand worms. Jack's grandson took a few blues in the 3-7 lb. class at Execution Rock last week, but Jack had no bluefish news since then.

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SURF REPORT
with Fred Golofaro

Although chances of connecting in the suds are as good now as they have been all year long, many surfmen have already hung up their rods for the season. As a result, surf reports are becoming increasingly difficult to obtain. I will continue to do the best I can in keeping those fishermen who are still active, informed on what's been happening around the Island.

SOUTH SHORE: EAST END

Most of the action in Montauk has been up front under the Light in recent weeks. There was a decent showing of school bass at Shagwong during last week, but this fishing petered out towards the weekend. Last Wednesday night, a 40 and a 35 came off the rocks at the Light; while on Thursday, a handful of school fish rewarded several of us who fished through the early morning hours.

Johnny Kronuch had checked in a few fish over the weekend. Among them, a 33 lber. for Rich Sinatra of Sea Cliff on Friday. Saturday night, 13-year-old Joey Brannagan clicked with a 25 lb. striper, while Ed Ferry of the Bronx followed the youngster up with a 24 lber. Best way to describe the Montauk scene would be "a very slow pick."

The sand beaches in the Shinnecock-Southampton area produced a few bass Sunday AM, according to Thom of Speck's Bait and Tackle. Thom hit the beach Sunday afternoon and reported nothing doing in the area up until dark when he left. During the middle of last week, a few bass were picked up on tins fished in conjunction with droppers or tubes. This fishing never developed into anything more than a pick.

Phil Holewinski and his brother Roger, stand alongside Phil's 39 lb. striper. The big bass took a silver-finished popping plug near Cedar Beach and was weighed in at The Store.

Anthony Storino proudly hefts an outsize chopper landed on a pencil popper in Larchmont Harbor. The huge blue tipped the scale at 21½ lbs. Subscriber photo.

I had a friend who checked out the west side of Shinnecock Inlet on Sunday and found things there dead. In speaking with several anglers on the beach who had been there in past days, my informer learned that nothing had happened here at all.

"Big John" Schauer spent some time at field 3 Robert Moses over the weekend and found things in this area also very quiet. Old news by now, was the 38 lber. taken just west of the parking lot on a tin early last week.

SOUTH SHORE: WEST END

From The Store at Oak Beach, we learned from Ruth that although husband Hays was out pounding the beach when I called, things from Cedar to Gilgo have been very quiet. The one exception, was the 30 lb. bass taken by a young lady on a store-bought eel at Cedar over the weekend.

While Charlie Beckmann told me from his Lynbrook shop that he has not heard much in the way of surf news, he did have one nice fish to report. Richard Boden used a Gibbs bottle plug to take a 42 lb. striper from the back end of the Jones Inlet jetty Thursday night. Nice going, Rich.

I was unable to get any info on the Atlantic Beach-Point Lookout area, so moving to Staten Island, I learned from Lenny at Santo's Sport Shop that school bass continue to be taken by casters using sand worms at Penny Beach and Cliff Street. Fish have been running anywhere from 3-10 lbs.

NORTH SHORE: WEST

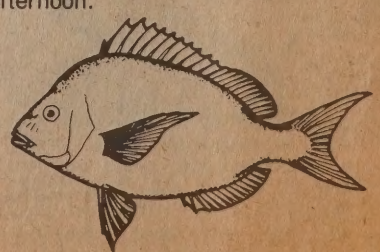
Jack of Jack's Bait and Tackle in City Island repeated his long-standing report of lots of school bass in the area. Casters take the fish in Turtle Cove on small Rebels, bucktails and sand worms.

Very little news from anywhere else on this part of the Island, despite the large numbers of school bass being taken by boatmen in the Huntington area. George Valentine at Four Winds Bait and Tackle suggested that casters might have a better shot at these fish if they used small Tri-Fin Eel Worms to match the small sand eels the bass are feeding on. Tube lures have been the hot item for boatmen. Ronnie Ferrara also reported everything quiet along the surf front despite all the stripers in the area.

NORTH SHORE: EAST

"Stripers as far as you can see to the east and as far as you can see to the west," reported Stan at Rocky Point Fishing Stop. This was at dawn Friday and Saturday mornings along the local beaches. Despite the presence of the bass, which ran from shorts on up to fish in the 30s and 40s which Stan witnessed rolling on the surface, the fish were very difficult to catch. Loads of small bait and a calm Sound made the fish very fussy. Stan and his partner did manage a couple of schoolies on small Hopkins and on the 3/4 oz. Tri-Fin Eel Worm. Sunday morning found the same stretch of beach void of any fish life.

Art White told me from his bait shop that casters take occasional bass on plugs at Horton's Point and along the beach at Orient. Great South Bay Angler club member Marty Beer, spent sometime in this area during the middle of last week and found nothing at all going on. In speaking to some of the locals, he learned that things have been generally quiet, with the exception of an occasional big bluefish on bait. Marty did pass along word that Steve Petri took several school bass from the shore at Orient Monday afternoon.



HIGH TIDE TABLES

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	Breakwater Harbor AM	Breakwater Harbor PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGE-PORT AM	BRIDGE-PORT PM	NEW-PORT AM	NEW-PORT PM	DATE
THUR.	10:29	11:03	11:23	11:53	11:20	11:55	–	12:04	2:11	2:11	1:42	2:00	10:28	10:54	11/8
FRI.	11:17	11:54	–	12:15	–	12:13	12:48	1:01	3:07	3:10	2:35	2:50	11:17	11:49	11/9
SAT.	–	12:07	12:51	1:10	12:47	1:03	1:46	1:59	4:06	4:21	3:27	3:45	–	12:13	11/10
SUN.	12:47	12:57	1:51	2:09	1:40	1:53	2:46	2:59	5:10	5:30	4:22	4:42	12:45	1:09	11/11
MON.	1:40	1:51	2:52	3:06	2:32	2:45	3:46	4:00	6:09	6:32	5:18	5:37	1:44	2:06	11/12
TUE.	2:36	2:49	3:48	4:02	3:27	3:40	4:42	4:55	7:03	7:28	6:10	6:32	2:40	3:01	11/13
WED.	3:35	3:45	4:38	4:50	4:20	4:36	5:29	5:42	7:52	8:16	7:01	7:22	3:31	3:52	11/14
THUR.	4:27	4:38	5:23	5:35	5:10	5:27	6:09	6:27	8:37	9:01	7:48	8:09	4:18	4:39	11/15

HOW TO USE TIDE TABLES:

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet..... —0 50" is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." —0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6 ½ hours to this figure.

On SANDY HOOK

STATEN ISLAND	+ 0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	—0 01
Red Bank, Navesink R.I.	+ 0 48
Long Branch	—0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	—0 18
Shark River Basin	+ 0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	—0 12
Seaside Park	—0 33
Mantoloking Bridge	+ 5 34
TOMS RIVER	+ 4 37
Waretown	+ 2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	—0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+ 2 33
Beach Haven	+ 1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	—0 01
Seven Islands	+ 0 12
Graveling Point	+ 1 05
Mullica River	+ 1 55
Grassy Bay	+ 1 08
ABSECON INLET	+ 0 14
Atlantic City Pier	—0 26
Gt. Egg Harbor Inlet	+ 0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+ 0 46
CORSON INLET	+ 0 09
TOWNESEND INLET	+ 0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+ 0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+ 0 45
Cape May Harbor	—0 02
Rehoboth Beach	—0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+ 0 14
SHINNECOCK INLET	—0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+ 1 25
East Quogue	+ 2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+ 1 18
Indian Reservation	+ 3 05
MORICHES INLET	—0 56
Smith's Point	+ 3 28
Harts Cove	+ 1 30
Potunck Point	+ 3 35
Mastic Beach	+ 3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	—0 38
Democrat Point	—0 38
Coast Guard Station	—0 19
Fire Island Light	+ 0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+ 3 39
Heckscher State Pk.	+ 3 20
Bay Shore	+ 2 23
Babylon	+ 2 12
Amityville	+ 2 21
JONES INLET	—0 19
Zachs Bay	+ 1 25
Seaford Harbor	+ 2 05
Freeport Creek	+ 0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	—0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+ 0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	—0 00
Beach Ch. Bridge	+ 0 38
JFK Airport	+ 0 26

On BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+ 0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+ 0 08
Bayville Bridge	+ 0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+ 0 03
Northport Bay	+ 0 03
Norwalk Islands	+ 0 10
Smithtown Bay	—0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+ 0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+ 0 03
New Haven Harbor	+ 0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	—0 08
Herod Point	—0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+ 0 19
Horton Point	—0 20
Truman Beach	—0 42
Falkner Island	—0 13
Sachem Head	—0 10
Branford Harbor	—0 07
New Haven Harbor	—0 08
Milford Harbor	—0 07
Stratford	+ 0 27
Shelton	+ 1 36
Black Rock Harbor	—0 03
Saugatuck River	—0 01
South Norwalk	+ 0 10
Greens Ledge	—0 01
Stamford	+ 0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+ 0 06
Greenwich	+ 0 02

On NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+ 0 27
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+ 0 12
Greenport	+ 1 04
Southold	+ 1 43
New Suffolk	+ 2 26
South Jamesport	+ 2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+ 2 33
Noyack Bay	+ 2 05
Sag Harbor	+ 0 59
Gardiners Bay	+ 0 21
Promised Land	—0 14
Montauk Inlet	—0 25
Montauk Point	—1 13
Niantic	+ 1 20
Stonington	—0 33
Noank, Mystic River	—0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove	—0 01
Norwich	+ 0 09
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook jetty	+ 1 10
Lyme	+ 1 24
Essex	+ 1 38
East Haddam	+ 2 41
Higganum Creek	+ 2 54

On WILLETS PT.

Little Neck Bay	—0 10
Execution Light	—0 06
Manhasset Bay	—0 01
Hempstead Harbor	—0 11
City Island	—0 03
Rye Beach	—0 28
Port Chester	—0 09
Mamaroneck	—0 08
New Rochelle	—0 24
Davids Island	—0 02

On B'WATER HB.

CAPE MAY POINT	—0 10
Miami Beach	+ 1 17
East Point	+ 0 53
Egg Island Point	+ 0 33
Cape Henlopen	—0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+ 0 09
Mispillion River Ent.	+ 0 33
St. Jones River Ent.	+ 0 57

On NEW YORK

Jersey City	+ 0 07
Geo. Washington Br.	+ 0 46
Spuyten Duyvil	+ 0 58
Ossining	+ 1 53
Peekskill	+ 2 24
West Point	+ 3 16
Newburg	+ 3 42

On NEWPORT

Sakonnet	—0 10
Tiverton	+ 0 21
Beavertail Point	—0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Pt.	+ 0 10
Bristol	+ 0 10
Warren	+ 0 21
Nayatt Point	+ 0 12
Pawtucket	+ 0 21
East Greenwich	+ 0 16
Wickford	+ 0 12
Narragansett Pier	—0 08
Point Judith Harbor	—0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+ 0 05
Old Harbor	—0 14
Watch Hill Point	+ 0 44

SUNRISE/SUNSET

11/2	6:33	4:53
11/7	6:40	4:47
11/12	6:46	4:42
11/17	6:52	4:38
11/22	6:58	4:34
11/27	7:04	4:31

PHASES OF THE MOON

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	2nd Qtr.
11/19	11/26	11/4	11/11

The Original Knight

SOLUNAR TABLES

When To Fish Or Hunt

The schedule of solunar periods for the following week as printed below has been taken from the original Knight Solunar Tables. Plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during these times when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for an hour-and-a-half or two hours thereafter, and are in the bold type face. The minor periods are shorter in duration and lighter type.

	AM Minor	AM Major	PM Minor	PM Major
Thurs.	7:45	**2:00**	8:10	**2:25**
Fri.	8:40	**2:55**	9:05	**3:20**
Sat.	9:35	**3:50**	10:00	**4:15**
Sun.	10:30	**4:35**	10:45	**5:05**
Mon.	11:20	**5:25**	11:35	**5:45**
Tues.	11:55	**6:05**	—	**6:25**
Wed.	12:15	**6:40**	12:40	**7:05**
Thurs.	12:50	**7:20**	1:20	**7:40**

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